

KOEPEL ON WINE

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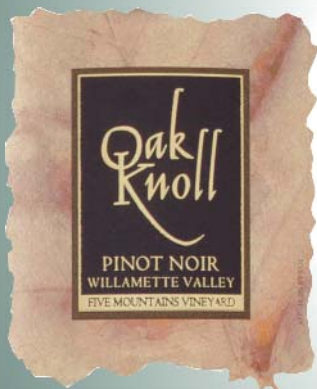


Refrigerator Door Wines

May 24, 2005

This is the list you print out and fix upon the refrigerator door with a magnet to remind you to pick up a bottle or two at the store. These wines are inexpensive and tend to offer immediate pleasure, some as aperitifs, others to match with food, and some versatile enough for all purposes.

Oak Knoll Winery
2003 Pinot Noir



Very Good+

Knoll – appropriate name – manages to subdue the wood here for lovely detail and dimension. The color is a winsome cerise; the bouquet a wafting of macerated currant, plums and cranberries that yields to firm black cherry. In the mouth, that black cherry dominates with warmth and earthiness and spice, with smoke, lavender and violets in the background... This is, overall, a terrific pinot for the price.

Oak Knoll Winery
2003 Pinot Gris



Very Good+

Oak Knoll's Pinot Gris '03 has so much body and weight that you would swear it went through oak aging, but it sees only stainless steel. No simple quaffer, this brisk, round wine offers spiced lemon and pear scents and flavors, hints of almond blossom and a creamy texture. Try it with grilled fish or (in the fashion of Alsace) roasted pork or charcuterie.