



Chasseur

Robert Parker Wine Advocate

Bill Hunter is a bigger-than-life guy working out of a low-tech warehouse producing hand-crafted, small lot wines in a French style. Production appears to have leveled off between 2,500 and 2,800 cases of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Virtually all of his vineyards are on the western fringes of the Russian River Valley where it segues into the Sonoma Coast appellation. Hunter calls it the West County triangle area, between Sebastopol, Freestone, and Occidental. Hunter's winemaking philosophy demands the gentlest handling possible, with the wines moved by either Argon gas (the non-bruising neutral gas) or gravity, fermented in tiny lots, and bottled in most cases without any fining or filtration. Chasseur is definitely a reference point for consumers looking for the highest quality Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs from northern California. These are all very impressive wines that merit serious attention. Moreover, their prices are reasonable for the quality level. Chasseur's Pinot Noirs are fermented in tiny, one-ton fermenters with some whole clusters (stems) used.

-Robert Parker - Wine Advocate: #187. February 2010

2007 Chasseur Lorenzo Chardonnay – 95

Another stunning effort is the 2007 Chardonnay Lorenzo Vineyard, which comes from an old Wente clone planted in the early seventies. Orange blossom, nectarine, citrus oil, and white peach notes along with abundant minerality and flesh characteristics emerge from this expressive, exotic white. Full-bodied with elegance, crisp acids, and a large, broad, expansive mouthfeel, it can be enjoyed now and over the next 5-8 years. All of these Chardonnays see about 60% new French oak.

2007 Chasseur Durell Chardonnay – 94

The 2007 Chardonnay Durell Vineyard reveals a honeyed, flinty character with lots of citrus, pit fruits, and a striking minerality. With a vivid fruit character, full-bodied power, and terrific freshness, texture, and length, it should evolve for 7-8+ years. All of these Chardonnays see about 60% new French oak.

2007 Chasseur Sangiacomo Green Acres Hill Chardonnay – 92

The 2007 Chardonnay Sangiacomo Green Acres Hill, made from an old Wente clone, exhibits abundant notes of brioche, lemon, citrus oil, poached pears, and honeysuckle as well as subtle spicy oak, and elegant, crisp acids buttressing a medium to full-bodied, beautifully concentrated wine displaying freshness as well as vigor. It should drink nicely for 4-5 years or longer. All of these Chardonnays see about 60% new French oak.

2007 Chasseur Sonoma County Chardonnay – 92

The beautiful 2007 Chardonnay Sonoma County exhibits more flesh along with full body, plenty of honeysuckle, citrus oil, and pineapple characteristics, and an alluring texture. Drink this over the next 4-5 years. All of these Chardonnays see about 60% new French oak.

2007 Chasseur Rayhill Pinot Noir – 96

The prodigious 2007 Pinot Noir Rayhill offers an exceptional combination of boysenberry, plum, black cherry, and forest floor characteristics along with full-bodied, powerful flavors as well as great precision, purity, and texture. A beauty of both power and elegance, it should be consumed over the next 5-6 years.

2007 Chasseur Umino Pinot Noir – 96

The stunning, dark ruby/purple-tinged 2007 Pinot Noir Umino boasts a blueberry, black cherry, raspberry, rose petal, and wild strawberry-filled bouquet. Full-bodied with fabulous concentration, a sexy melange of spices and fruit, and a broad, savory palate, this gorgeous Pinot should drink well for 5-7 years.

2007 Chasseur Sylvia's Pinot Noir – 94+

From a tiny, one-acre parcel, the 2007 Pinot Noir Sylvia's Vineyard is a dense, backward effort revealing notes of dried flowers, pomegranates, black raspberries, cherries, and hints of pepper and spice. This "locked and loaded" Pinot is more closed than the Sexton or the Rayhill, but is very promising. Full-bodied and rich, it begs for 1-2 years of cellaring, and should drink well for 5-8 years thereafter.

2007 Chasseur Sexton Pinot Noir – 94

The 2007 Pinot Noir Sexton Vineyard's dark ruby/purple color is accompanied by aromas of sweet plums, black cherries, and Asian spices. Deep and full-bodied with a sensational texture, light tannins, and the distinctive forest floor and floral notes of high-class Pinot Noir, this attractive wine should evolve easily for 5-8 years.

2007 Chasseur Blank Pinot Noir – 94

The 2007 Pinot Noir Blank displays an opaque ruby/purple color, a hint of background oak, and blueberry and cherry aromas. Concentrated, dense, and intense with hints of spice box as well as high-class cigar tobacco, this big, rich, somewhat backward, but beautiful wine (from Dijon clones 777 and 115) will benefit from another year or so of bottle age, and drink well for 7-10 years.

2007 Chasseur Freestone Station Pinot Noir – 93

The string of brilliant wines from Bill Hunter continues with his 2007 Pinot Noir Freestone Station. A lush, sexy, seductive wine, it exhibits abundant notes of raspberries, wild strawberries, exotic flowers, and Chinese black tea in its aromatic, upfront personality. Broad, full-bodied, plush, and the most lush, succulent of these Pinots, it is irresistible at this stage of its evolution. It should continue to drink well for another 4-5 years.

2007 Chasseur Joyce Pinot Noir – 92+

The single vineyard Pinot Noirs include the limited production 2007 Pinot Noir Joyce, which comes from a tiny 3-acre block with yields averaging one ton of fruit per acre. Its dense ruby/purple hue is followed by copious aromas of kirsch, raspberry liqueur, plums, and earth. This spicy, medium to full-bodied, tightly-knit Pinot possesses impressive intensity, richness, acidity, and length. Cellar it for another year, and enjoy it over the following 7-8.

2007 Chasseur Holder Pinot Noir – 92

The 2007 Pinot Noir Holder Vineyard plays it closer to the vest. One of the least evolved of these offerings, it reveals notes of cola, black and red cherries, raspberries, spice box, and pomegranate in a tightly wrapped, medium to full-bodied style. With good acidity, more noticeable tannin, and a firmer edge than its siblings, it will benefit from another year of bottle age, and should last for 7-8 years.

2007 Chasseur Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir – 92

The 2007 Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast boasts a dark ruby color along with a big, sweet bouquet of raspberries, black cherries, spice, and hints of earth, pepper, and forest floor. A candied, fleshy style leads to a full-bodied, broad wine revealing beautiful purity, texture, and length. It, too, should drink well for 4-5 years.

2007 Chasseur Russian River Valley Pinot Noir – 92

Abundant notes of pomegranate, plum, black cherry, and cola emerge from the 2007 Pinot Noir Russian River along with a juicy, succulent mouthfeel. Of these first three Pinots, it is the most fruit-forward and spicy. Consume this sexy, full-bodied offering over the next 4-5 years.

2007 Chasseur Sonoma County Pinot Noir – 90

The medium to full-bodied 2007 Pinot Noir Sonoma County (all whole clusters) exhibits a dark ruby color followed by a fine nose of wild strawberries, sweet cherries, a complex floral character, spice, and a certain earthiness. Consume it over the next 4-5 years.

Chasseur Chardonnay Lorenzo Vineyard 2005 - 94

Readers looking for a grand cru Chablis-styled California white should check out the 2005 Chardonnay Lorenzo Vineyard. Sensational notes of lemon, citrus blossoms, wet stones, orange rind and guava as well as an unmistakable minerality are followed by a wine of great ripeness, purity and full-bodied power as well as length. Despite the fact that it was aged in nearly two-thirds new French oak, the wood is impossible to discern in the wine's aroma and flavor profiles. IT should drink well for 3-4 years.

Chasseur Chardonnay Green Acres Hill - 95

The 2005 Chardonnay Green Acres Hill largely comes from the Sangiacomo Vineyard parcel of this name. It exhibits a greenish hue to the light gold color in addition to beautiful, sweet aromas of white peaches, lemon blossom, brioche, pineapples and Allspice. Full-bodied with excellent acidity as well as layers of fruit, this is another example of what an unreal vintage 2005 has turned out to be for Chardonnay. Drink it over the next 3-4 years.

Chasseur Durell Chardonnay 2005 - 94

PointsLemon, peach, crushed rock, toasty oak and tropical fruit characteristics emerge from the full-bodied, expressive, flamboyantly aromatic 2005 Chardonnay Durell Vineyard. This sensual, seductive, super-intense, pure effort should drink well for 2 - 3 years.

Chasseur Freestone Station Pinot Noir 2005 - 94

Chasseur Sylvia's Pinot Noir 2005 - 94

Chasseur Blank Pinot Noir 2005 - 91

Chasseur Green Acres Hill Chardonnay 2002 - 94

The sumptuous 2002 Chardonnay Green Acres Hill could easily pass for a grand cru Burgundy. Its light green/gold color is accompanied by lovely aromas of honeysuckle, orange blossoms, citrus oils, and notions of peaches and hazelnuts in the background. This full-bodied effort possesses outstanding structure, crisp acidity, and a long, spicy finish. Still youthful, this superb example of artisanal Chardonnay from the Russian River should age for 5-7 more years.
\$42.50 / bottle

Chasseur Lorenzo Chardonnay 2002 - 92

The 2002 Chardonnay Lorenzo reveals a light straw/green color as well as a classic nose of buttered oranges, pineapples, and crushed rocks. Rich, firm, and fresh with a beautiful texture as well as full body, like its siblings, it is a Chardonnay of tremendous soul, personality, and singularity. Drink it over the next 5-7 years.
\$50.00 / bottle