

FULCRUM

Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir Press

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine

Fulcrum 2019 Conzelman Vineyard Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

None of Fulcrum's highly successful 2019 Pinot Noirs leaves much to be desired in the way of deep and incisive, insistently juicy fruit, but this one and its companion from Hogan's Run Vineyard vie for top honors in what is a seriously good bunch. The latter is slightly riper and fuller, whereas the equally rich Conzelman Vineyard bottling is just a bit livelier and slightly firmer in structure, and, if, perhaps, the longer-lived of the two, it is far from closed in and displays fruity charm aplenty right now. In the end, there is simply no downside in choosing one over the other or in deciding whether to let it age or pull its cork fairly soon. **93 Points** - June 2021

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2018 Conzelman Vineyard, Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

Brooding black-fruit flavors and an impressive but lively texture make this single-vineyard wine exciting to sip. It shows great focus and concentration, deft balance, and a firm mouthfeel. Poised for mid-term aging, it will be best after 2024. **93 Points** – J.G. July 2020

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine

Fulcrum 2018 Conzelman Vineyard Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

Subtle suggestions of wet stones and damp soil serve as accents to this one's well-filled aromas of red and black cherries and mildly creamy oak, and while showing a nice range of quiet complexity in both scent and taste, the wine first and foremost is defined by its emphatic fruit. It is moderately full on the palate and firmed by evident acidity that accentuates its late-arriving tannins as well as tightening its finish, but its fruity resilience is impressive and offers more than enough assurance that a complete and slightly more polished Pinot awaits after letting this one rest for the three to five years of cellaring that its youthful tightness prescribes. **91 Points** – June 2020

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2017 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley)

The scent of gorgeous dark cherries blended with exotic French oak spices gives this full-bodied wine an inspired start before it spreads equally spicy, smoky, almost-sweet flavors and ripe black cherry and boysenberry notes across the palate. Full body and moderate tannins give it great structure and grip in the mouth. **93 Points** – J.G. August 2019

PinotFile

2017 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

Sourced from Donnelly Creek Vineyard. Pommard clone. 10% whole cluster. Aged 11 months in French oak barrels, 33% new. Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. Moderately dark garnet color in the glass. The nose was quite likable, offering scents of spiced cherry, s'mores, and cardamom. Seamless and seductive on the palate with an array of dark red and black fruits that saturate the mid palate and finish. Harmonious tannin management with a haunting

silkeness. The oak presence is a bit aggressive but easy to overlook because of the tasty fruit core. **91 Points** – April 2019

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2016 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Earthy, meaty, oaky, aromas and rich ripe cherry and strawberry flavors give this full-bodied and plush-textured wine plenty to appreciate. It tastes generous and feels smooth and mouth-filling. **91 Points** —Jim Gordon. May 2018

PinotFile

2016 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir A very fruit-forward and gregarious wine with aromas and flavors of purple grape, boysenberry, black raspberry and hints of toast and vanilla. Lush and velvety in the mouth with soldiering tannins, adept acidity and a generously fruity finish. This is a wine to enjoy now for its giving nature rather than cellar. **92; Outstanding** Rusty Gaffney, April 2018

PinotFile

2015 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. This wine opens slowly in the glass to reveal aromas of cherry, spice and forest stream, and luscious flavors of dark red cherries and berries that are well-spiced. The cozy texture is mesmerizing much like a soft robe, the balance is spot on, and the finish is quite sleek. **92; Outstanding** Rusty Gaffney, September 2017

Wine Enthusiast

2015 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir Abundantly oaky, this is a friendly, mouth-filling and broadly textured wine that comes off as soft and soothing. Sweet-seeming spicy oak and tobacco aromas lead to generous flavors of ripe cherry and raspberry rounded out by nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla. Concentration and layering raise it way above average. **93 Points**—J.G. October 2017

Wine Enthusiast

2014 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir This is a smooth-textured, mouth-filling wine with quietly rich aromas, ripe, welcoming fruit flavors and a soft suede texture. It's not a showy, oaky wine but a composed and calm one. **90 Points**—J.G. October 2016

Wine Odyssey

2014 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir New Jersey resident David Rossi sources Donnelly Creek vineyard fruit for his **2014 Fulcrum**. The wine competes with Goldeneye for pushing the Anderson Valley envelope of new oak influence and ripe fruit character. Vanilla, coffee and blackberry aromas and flavors flow on an elegant, big body with a long, cola tasting finish. **93 points.** – John Foy July 5 2016

PinotFile

2014 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. This wine opens slowly in the glass to reveal aromas of cherry, spice and forest stream, and luscious flavors of dark red cherries and berries that are well-spiced. The cozy texture is mesmerizing much like a soft robe, the balance is spot on, and the finish is quite sleek. **92; Outstanding** Rusty Gaffney, August 2016

Forbes

2014 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir Taught, angular and beautifully constructed. **Flawless**, excepting it needs five years to come into it's prime. -Nick Passmore, September 2016

PinotReport

2013 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

Medium-light ruby color; earthy complex nose of wild cherry with forest floor, evergreen and spice notes; deep flavors of cherry and black raspberry with spicy cola notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Earthy and complex Pinot with good tannins. **92 Points, Outstanding**
-Greg Walter, March 2016

Burghound

2013 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

An elegant and more complex red berry fruit, spice and softly floral-scented nose leads to delicious and attractively textured middle weight flavors that are at once round yet detailed, all wrapped in a dusty, palate coating and well-balanced finale. While this could be enjoyed now I would be inclined to give it 5 to 7 years of bottle age to soften the supporting tannins. **Lovely. 90 Points**-Allen Meadows

Restaurant Wine

"A quartet of very good 2013 wines from this Pinot Noir specialist"

2013 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"The Anderson Valley Pinot Noir is velvety in texture, full bodied, and lightly tannic; a wine with subtle but intense flavors (plum, blueberry jam, cherry, nutmeg, oak), crisp acidity, and medium long finish." **4 Stars: Excellent quality for its type, style, and price. Among the very best of its type for its price. Highly recommended**

-Ronn Wiegand, August 2015

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2013 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley)

Nicely balanced and full of satisfying cherry flavors, this full-bodied wine has a top note like slices of grilled baguette. Bright cranberry and hints of baking spices round out its personality. Best cellar it until at least 2017. **90 Points Excellent; Highly recommended** Jim Gordon, December 2015

PinotFile

2013 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Moderately light reddish purple color in the glass. Aromas and flavors of cherry and spice are complimented by a touch of oak. The tannins are folded in, and the wine finishes with a good cut of acidity and plenty of spice. The nose was still shy the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle." **90 Points; Outstanding**

-Rusty Gaffney, July 2015

Wine Review Online

2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"I was smitten by the 2011 vintage of this delightful Pinot Noir and am perhaps even more enamored of the current release. It still has that fine silkiness and similarly luxurious flavor profile

that I liked so much, along with savory earthiness and nicely controlled fruitiness. This is a wine that is both graceful and commanding." **92 Points**

-Marguerite Thomas, April 2015

Wine Review Online

2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"It's a warm site for this cool spot in Mendocino County that's known for excellent Pinot Noir, and winemaker David Rossi has coaxed an elegant expression from the vintage. Aromas of cherry, wildflowers, damp earth and soft brown spices translate well on the palate, adding a touch of coffee." **92 Points**

-Rich Cook, April 2015

Houston Lifestyles & Homes

Great Values at All Prices

"Other Excellent Reds: **Fulcrum Pinot Noir**

Anderson Valley 2012 — Lovely, with cherries and spice. Pair with roasted chicken or grilled salmon."

-Denman Moody, May 2015

The Press Democrat

This Week's Wine Picks

2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"This is a pinot that will turn heads. It's a touch earthy, with bright red fruit and crisp acid. The high-toned fruit is racy, with notes of Bing cherry, cranberry and pomegranate. A knockout."

-Peg Melnik, April 2015

PinotReport

2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Medium ruby color; deep, ripe dusty cherry aromas with toasty notes; deep earthy cherry flavors with herb and oak notes; very silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Silky, rich **Pinot with amazing texture.**" **94 Points, Smart Buy! Outstanding, approaching the best**

-Greg Walter, July 2014

Wine-Searcher

2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"There are lots of former wine hobbyists in Anderson Valley, but David Rossi is, I believe, the only former standup comedian. He lives and works in New Jersey, making his wine at a custom-crush facility in Napa, where he is the only Pinot maker surrounded by a sea of Cabernet. This multi-vineyard blend is light and pretty, with clean, pure raspberry fruit. "

-Blake Gray, February 2015

D Magazine

2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"David Rossi's Fulcrum 2012 Anderson Valley

Pinot Noir (fast becoming a favorite region for earthy Pinot Noir wines) comes from a warm spot in the cool AVA, allowing the Pinot Noir fruit to ripen, while maintaining freshness and acidity. The wine is filled with black cherry, wet leaves, cola, coffee and spice. Dense, yet

inviting, allow the wine to open a bit before enjoying, decanting an hour before hand to really allow the richness of the wine to shine."

-Hayley Hamilton Cogill , April 2015

Wine Lines Online

2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"One of the lesser-known wine producing regions in California is the Anderson Valley. It isn't easy to get to but, for those wine enthusiasts who choose to take the road less traveled, the area is rich with fabulous wines from many wine grape varieties. This one is quite impressive, announcing it is Pinot Noir with a nearly transparent coral/ruby color. At first whiff, smoke-tinged aromas of spiced black cherry and red berries rise from the glass. There is a smooth, feminine entry to the palate, with a light, refined grip towards the finish. A nice thread of acidity keeps it juicy and invites the next sip. After a few hours of aeration, the fruit mellows and sweetens up while picking up additional notes of pencil shavings. Drink now and over the next decade." **91 Points**

-Glen Frederiksen and Bob Johnson, March 2015

Capital Gazette

"Here are some other notable pinot noirs to consider:"

2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Rich in texture, this wine exudes black cherries and espresso flavors. Very sensuous drink with hints of expression and earth."

-Tom Marquardt & Patrick Darr, September 2015

Forbes

Six Exciting Wine Regions to Explore in 2014

"These six regions are garnering praise for balanced, elegant wines that tend towards lower alcohol and food-friendliness."

Anderson Valley

"Smart winemakers have been experimenting with the terroir over the past 10 to 15 years and the results are **elegant, finely tuned wines with soft fruit notes and complex structure.**"

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Fulcrum delivers layers of cherry, violets and cinnamon over dark earth notes. A nice kick of spice at the finish keeps things interesting."

-Katie Kelly Bell, February 2014

Wine Review Online

Recalibrating My Pinot Noir Benchmarks

"Thanks to David, **I discovered a winery that was new to me, and well worth knowing. I recommend any Pinot from Fulcrum Wines – whether Fulcrum label or On Point – that you are able to get your hands on. Pinot Noir aficionados deserve to know about these wines.**"

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir "Excellent."

-Mary Ewing-Mulligan, November 2013

The Daily Meal

2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Nice sweet cherry flavors with some good bitters notes and a hint of balsamic at the finish."

-Roger Morris, April 2015

Newsday

"Generous with berries and worth cellaring: the vibrant, intense, earthy **2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir.**"

-Peter Gianotti, April 2015

The Detroit News

"Meet Fulcrum's David Rossi: A self-taught artist with Pinot Noir"

"He is an artisan producer of Fulcrum and On Point Pinot Noirs from some of California's top vineyards and earning praise from *Wine Enthusiast* magazine, blogger Dan Berger and columnist Anthony Dias Blue. **Rossi's Fulcrum wines have deep color with pronounced tannins and complex structures. His other label, On Point, emphasizes vibrant flavors, silky tannins and an immediately alluring personality,** as he describes it. He stresses these are 'stylistic distinctions — not quality ones.'"

2012 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Inhale the spicy oak streaming through the aromas. This brooding, deeply colored Pinot offers aromas of cherry, cola, espresso and vanilla encased in velvet tannins with a sturdy spine of acidity."

-Sandra Silfven, August 2015

PinotReport

"For David and Christinna Rossi, founders of Fulcrum Wines, the metaphor of a fulcrum being a point of balance for a lever is what their Pinot venture is all about. They strive for elegance and balance in their wines."

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Medium-deep ruby color; deep, dusty cherry aromas with notes of herbs and anise; complex cherry and raspberry flavors with earthy and herbal notes; **good structure and balance; long finish.** Pretty, balanced Pinot with nice, subtle flavors." **92 Points**

-Gregory Walter, April 2013

Michael Cervin on Twitter

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"I'm not familiar with the Fulcrum Wine portfolio, but just tasted the 2011 Anderson Valley Pinot Noir, **a beautiful, layered wine.**"

-Michael Cervin, January 2014

Wine Enthusiast

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"This is Londer Vineyard fruit though the vineyard is no longer a designation of its own. Still, like vintages past, Fulcrum has worked its magic with the long-coveted spot, crafting an herbal, savory Pinot that's mouth-filling in blueberry fruit. Voluptuously soft, this is a great wine for the table, perhaps paired with a pork roast dripping in mushrooms." **92 Points; Excellent, Highly recommended**

-Virginie Boone, May 2014

Wine Review Online

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"This wine is sourced mainly from the Londer Estate in Anderson Valley. Winemaker David Rossi's take on the vineyard gives us a very tightly wound wine a present, but one that shows excellent promise. Aromas include dusty mineral, cherry, menthol and maple, and the palate focuses on earth and red fruit. I'd lay this down for at least three years to let everything come together – it will be well worth the time." **91 Points**

-Rich Cook, January 2014

The Tasting Panel

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Smooth and ripe with lush berry and cherry fruit; rich and balanced with depth and style."

90 Points; Outstanding

-Anthony Dias Blue, January 2014

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences

New Pinot Star in Ascendancy

"Rossi's wine brand, Fulcrum, is **a stellar new entrant to U.S. PN ranks because of superb quality.** Each vineyard-designated wine is a unique statement, which is seen when you taste all the wines side by side ... **the aromas, tastes, and structures of the wines are near-perfect and much better than most higher-priced PNs.** The key to all these wines is the finesse they show without lacking any of the depth of fruit and richness that will be a part of each wine in a year or more ... **each wine is so stellar that they are destined to become impossible to find in a year or two—when the word gets out.**"

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Bright red cherry florality and a freshness mark the aroma; the entry is juicy and succulent, but the acidity keeps the wine together. One of the best Anderson Valley PNs I've tasted and it will only get better." **Exceptional**

-Dan Berger, October 2013

Wine Review Online

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Smooth and lushly flavored with a solid core of red fruit bolstered by autumnal earthiness (dried leaves, damp underbrush), this Pinot Noir is focused and cohesive. It dances lightly across the taste buds, leaving behind a lingering, savory imprint." **91 Points**

-Marguerite Thomas, November 2014

PinotFile

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Moderate reddish-purple hue in the glass. I **was really attracted to the nose on this wine which offered an explosion of aromas** including cherries, molasses, and roseate notes. Really delivers sumptuous flavors of cherries, raspberries and strawberries with a hint of complimentary spice that carries over onto the big finish." Very Good

-Rusty Gaffney, June 2013

HoseMaster of Wine

"As for Fulcrum, **if you like Pinot Noir that is intent on purity and delicacy, on aromatics and subtlety, on the conversation between winemaker and vineyard, on Pinot Noir as the prettiest girl in the room, I think you'll like Fulcrum Wines. They're certainly worthy of your attention,** and

I suspect they will emerge from a bit of cellaring, say six or eight years, with even more depth and complexity."

2010 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"The 2010 Fulcrum Pinot Noir Londer Vineyard Anderson Valley is sourced **from one of the great Pinot Noir vineyards in Mendocino County**, and that's saying something. This was the first Fulcrum wine I drank, and it proved to be a bellwether for the brand. It leans on its aromatics, which are compelling and beguiling. Red fruits dominate, but it's the floral aspect I liked. I thought of violets, and I liked the tension between the dark floral notes and the lighter red fruit notes. It was something interesting to talk about. And **it captures the beauty of Anderson Valley Pinot Noir** nicely with its grace, and with its touch of earthiness that speaks to the coolness of the place. Very refined, and very pretty, but, at first, I found myself subtly wishing for more power. But the longer I sat with the wine, the less I cared about the sort of tastebud-numbing power we too often associate with greatness these days. We forget that **grace has its own power, and a more genuine power. And here I'm thinking of Nelson Mandela as an example**. Wines, these days, could use more grace and a bit less power. There's beauty in that."

-Ron Washam, July 2013

The New Jersey Star-Ledger

Jersey Winemaker's Affair with California Pinot Noir

"None of the Fulcrum wines showed signs of alcohol or candied aroma or flavor, flaws that many enology-schooled winemakers repeatedly make with pinot noir. **Rossi has submerged himself in the art of making pinot noir and vineyard selections, and as he sank into the wine world he never lost his balance.**"

2011 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"It comes from a different section of the vineyard and displays more fruit flavor and toasted oak barrel aroma than Christinna's Cuvée. I thought the former had Burgundy's Beaune style while the Anderson Valley was akin to Volnay."

-John Foy, March 2014

Wine Enthusiast

2010 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"A pretty Pinot, earthy and complex, that's perfumed with strawberry jam, violets and candied orange. It's delicate in personality, yet retains plenty of heft and backbone on the palate. Aromatically memorable, pair it with spiced Moroccan lamb in cardamom and cinnamon spices." **91 Points; Excellent, Highly recommended**

-Virginie Boone, May 2013

Examiner

Fulcrum Wines: Crazy for Pinot Noir

"**David Rossi makes some incredible wines.**"

2009 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Fulcrum 2009 Londer Vineyard, Anderson Valley is dark garnet color. There is a wildness about the brambly, dark cherry nose that also shows an earthy combination of forest floor, heather, mushroom and hints of butterscotch. The earthy flavors echo the nose with a savory minerality, mouth-coating tannin and an underpinning of oak. This Pinot is unfinned and unfiltered so decanting is highly recommended. The tight and imposing tannins show Fulcrum Londer Vineyard has the structure and depth to age gracefully for 10 years or more. **David Rossi is an**

impressive new producer already garnering great scores. These wines are indeed something special."

-Barbara Hay, August 2011

PinotReport

2010 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Medium-deep ruby color; ripe stewed cherry aroma with earthy and herbal notes; rich and deep stewed cherry flavors with a lot of earthy complexity; some oak and tannin; good structure and balance; long finish. **Complex, rich Pinot with nicely developed earthy nuances."**

92 Points

-Gregory Walter, September 2012

Burghound

2010 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"A highly seductive and spicy nose of red berry fruit liqueur aromas slides gracefully into **utterly delicious, fresh and vibrant** flavors that possess both good size and weight. There is **excellent depth to the dusty, pure and balanced finish that delivers fine persistence. This is really very good.** 2016+" **91 Points**

-Allen Meadows

PinotFile

2010 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Moderate reddish-purple color in the glass. **Effusive and spell-binding aromas** of fresh black cherries and baking spices. Very tasty core of darker red cherries and berries wrapped in fine-grain, firm tannins. **A beguiling wine of great interest."** Very Good+

-Rusty Gaffney, June 2012

PinotReport

"This issue features some terrific new releases."

2008 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Medium ruby color; herbal, dusty cherry aromas with earthy notes; ripe, complex dusty cherry flavors with earthy notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Bright, forward fruit characterizes this Pinot—**plenty of earthy complexity rounds out this elegant Pinot."** **92**

Points

-Gregory Walter, September 2012

Wine & Spirits

2007 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

"Made by David Rossi from the Hein Family and Hayley vineyards, **this is a floral pinot with gracious fruit intensity.** It feels fat in the middle, as some red-fruited wines from the Pommard clone tend to. The oceanic acidity gives the strawberry flavor an edge. Delicious with a grilled salmon steak."

92 Points

-Joshua Greene, 2009

PinotFile

2007 Fulcrum Anderson Valley Pinot Noir

“With urging the nose blossoms beautifully revealing hi-tone aromas of ripe berry jam and wildflowers with a dusting of oak. **The balance is admirable and the fine-grain tannins provide a silky smooth texture that is very appealing.** The flavor profile leans to raspberry and cherry with a sidecar of oak. Plenty to like.”

-Rusty Gaffney, May 2009