Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Petaluma Gap, Pinot Noir

Wine Spectator

2023 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

This bristles with energy, with the core of blood orange and ruby-red grapefruit offering a lip-smacking feel. A chaparral note is infused throughout, while a twang of minerality pulls the finish, along with precision. Drink now through 2031. 502 cases made. –JM **92 Points**

Wine Enthusiast

2023 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

Concentrated aromas of black cherry, raspberry coulis and purple flowers waft from the glass on the nose of this Pinot. The palate delivers soft tannins and flavors of fleshy cherry-berry fruit and pithy orange peel along the finish. Delicious on its own, this will pair marvelously with roasted salmon or trout. **—** T.R.C **93 Points**

Owen Bargreen

2023 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

Coming from the famed 'Gap's Crown Vineyard' in the Sonoma Coast AVA, this 2023 Pinot Noir shows citrus rind and beautiful red rose petals on the nose alongside shades of red licorice. Smooth and rich on the tongue, with a great sense of tension, this glides throughout the drinking experience, producing loads of mouth-watering acidity. Tasted over several days, this deftly balanced wine still has a lot of juice left in the tank — enjoy over the next decade or more. Drink 2025-2037 **95 Points**

2025 American Fine Wine Competition

Fulcrum 2023 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

Double Gold Medal **94 Points**

Owen Bargreen

Fulcrum 2022 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

This amazing new Pinot Noir comes from the famed 'Gap's Crown Vineyard' in the Sonoma Coast AVA. It is rich and shows. A smooth mouthfeel with loads of tart red fruits alongside copious minerals on the palate. Fresh and lively enjoy now and over the next decade. Drink 2024-2033 **93 Points**

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

Warm, oaky baking-spice aromas of vanilla and cinnamon lead to a rich, full palate of cooked strawberries, dark plums and more oak spice. This inviting wine is full bodied, broad and softly tannic. **93 Points** — Jim Gordon, November 2023

Wine Spectator

Fulcrum 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

Fresh and sleek, with damson plum and black cherry notes racing along, flecked with light anise and bramble accents through the finish. Drink now through 2026. **91 Points** –James Molesworth

Jeb Dunnuck

Fulcrum 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

A deep but transparent ruby, the 2021 Pinot Noir Gap's Crown Vineyard is attractive with aromas of roses, ripe red raspberry, and woodsy spice. This medium-bodied red offers good balance and freshness, with fine tannins and harmonious notes of fresh red cherry, bergamot, and tea leaf. It's drinking well now and should drink well over the next 5-6 years. **92 Points** - Audrey Frick

Owen Bargreen

Fulcrum 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

This brilliant new Pinot Noir comes from the famed 'Gap's Crown Vineyard' in the Sonoma Coast AVA. Medium-bodied salty red and dark fruits combine with copious minerals and coffee ground flavors. Enjoy this outstanding salty and terroir-driven Pinot Noir now and over the next ten years. Drink 2023-2033. **92 Points**

Jeb Dunnuck

Fulcrum 2019 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

As to the Pinot Noirs, the 2019 Pinot Noir Gap's Crown Vineyard comes from a cooler site in the Petaluma Gap and offers attractive spiced cherry and framboise fruits as well as sappy herbs and foresty, earthy, spicy nuances. It's medium-bodied, rounded, and charming on the palate, and I love its overall balance and character. **93 Points** – *Jeb Dunnuck, July 2021*

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine

Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Petaluma Gap 2019

Not quite as full and a little less governed by ripeness than any in the latest Fulcrum collection, this mid-sized Pinot is just a bit lighter and more lifted in character. It starts out with an attractive nose of fresh cherries with highlights of dried flowers and gentle oak sweetness and hews to the same in its lithe, long-lasting flavors. It opts for fruity purity over brawn and big muscles and has the energy and balance to age gracefully for a good half-dozen years if not more. **91 Points** - *June 2021*

Robert Parker/Wine Advocate

Fulcrum 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

The 2018 Pinot Noir Gap's Crown Vineyard opens with cranberry sauce, baked rhubarb and pomegranate liqueur scents with notes of blood orange, laurel, dried herbs and earth. The medium-bodied palate is soft and nuanced, finely grained and fresh with a long finish. **92 Points** – *Erin Brooks, August 2020*

Wine Spectator

2018 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

Offers a firm structure and sculpted flavors of dark cherry, raspberry and green olive, backed by crisp acidity. Notes of forest floor fill the clean, focused finish. Drink now through 2024. **92 Points** – *K.M., May 2020*

Burghound

Fulcrum 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

This is the spiciest wine in the range with interesting hints of sandalwood and jasmine tea on the mix of red and dark fruit aromas. Somewhat surprisingly, the medium- Concentrated as those of the Wildcat Mountain though they are even more intense and beautifully well-detailed while offering excellent length on the firm, serious, youthfully austere and more complex finish. I like the balance and the layering and this should age effortlessly over the next decade. **92 Points** - *Allen Meadows, June 2020*

PinotFile

Fulcrum 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

Clones "faux 828" and 667. Aged 11 months in French oak barrels, 40% new. Bottled unfined and unfiltered. Moderately dark garnet color in the glass. A relatively ripe, boisterous and full-bodied wine that makes a big impression. The aromas and flavors of darker berry fruits grab attention, but the sappy fruit is not summatré. The fruit cloaks the supportive tannins so the mouthfeel is sleek and velvety. A typical Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir. **93 Points** – *Rusty Gaffney, May 2020*

Jeb Dunnuck

Fulcrum 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

From the Petaluma Gap region of the Sonoma Coast, the 2018 Pinot Noir Gap's Crown Vineyard is similarly purple/ruby-hued and has lots of foresty and pine tree notes as well as beautiful cherry and strawberry fruit, medium to full body, the seamless, pure fruit quality that's the hallmark of the 2018 vintage, and a great finish. It's already hard to resist, and while I don't see a need to delay gratification, it should evolve for 7-8 years. **92 Points** – *Jeb Dunnuck, May 2020*

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine

Fulcrum 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap

We very much like this wine's very evident depth and varietal authority even if it is a bit on the slightly tough and sinewy side relative to the other Pinots from Fulcrum. Its somewhat elevated astringency is preceded by a good degree of fruity extract that makes for easy predictions of better with age, but this one is far and away the one of the bunch that is a wine for later rather than now, and we highly recommend that it be held for at least three or four years with every expectation that it will benefit from several more after that. **90 Points** – *June 2020*

Wine Spectator

2017 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

Energetically fruity and filled with cherry tart and plum pastry flavors that are supported by medium-grained tannins. Lusciously spiced with a creamy texture midpalate and a long finish that offers cocoa powder notes. Drink now through 2024. **92 Points** – *K.M., September 2019*

PinotFile

2017 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir
Clones "828," and 667. 10% whole cluster. Aged 11 months in French oak barrels, 45% new. Moderately dark garnet color in the glass. Oak-kissed black cherry and fertile soil aromas lead to a mid weight plus mouthful of nicely ripened stone and berry fruits accented with a bit of piney oak. Typical Gap's Crown fruit extravagance but less than the 2016 vintage. The oak overlay is a little daunting but the wine would be ideal with a proper food accompaniment such as a grilled steak. **92 Points** - *April 2019*

Wine Enthusiast
Fulcrum 2017 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Petaluma Gap
Fragrant in rose petal and orange peel, this wine is light on its feet and high in acidity, able to preserve a current of freshness throughout a balanced core of cherry and pomegranate. Black tea and forest complement the vibrant tones. **92 Points** - *Virginie Boone, October 2019*

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine
2017 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir
Petaluma Gap. Tipping ever so slightly more to ripeness than its mate from the Wildcat Mountain Vineyard and, if anything, the richer wine of the two, this ample effort is brimming with deep, dark cherry fruit and sports a wealth of creamy, slightly vanillin oak that lends it own brand of sweetness. It is a full and absolutely mouthfilling Pinot that makes up in sheer fruity volume for what it may lack in grace, but it is never bothered by so much as a hint of coarseness or heat, and its very rich flavors go on and on. It is so plump and outgoing that it will make memorable drinking in the immediate term, but its fruity strength will hold it in good stead for at least a half-dozen years. **91 Points** - *May 2019*

Jeb Dunnuck
2017 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir
Coming from the Sonoma Coast, the 2017 Pinot Noir Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard is another solid effort from this estate. Plenty of tart black cherries, black tea, herbs, and a touch of dried soil all give way to a silky, beautifully polished effort that has ripe tannins, nicely integrated acidity. this is a classic, cool climate Pinot Noir that shines for its complexity, as well as elegance. Destemmed and aged 11 months in 45% new French oak, I suspect it will evolve gracefully for upwards of a decade. **91 Points** - *Jeb Dunnuck. June 2019*

PinotFile
2016 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir Dark garnet color in the glass. Intoxicating aromas of dark fruits, spice, violets, char and vanilla. A full-on charge of purple and black fruits attack with a vengeance, envelope the palate, and hang on through an intense, sappy and lengthy finish. About as big as Pinot Noir can be without being jammy. Silken in texture with tame tannins. An ultimate expression of Pinot's exuberance, encouraging contemplation and gloating. Any Miracle Gro in this vineyard? Still extraordinary when tasted the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle. Year in and year out, this is Fulcrum's best wine. **97 Points; Extraordinary** - *Rusty Gaffney, April 2018*

Wine Spectator
Fulcrum 2016 Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Gap's Crown Vineyard. Zesty wild berry and raspberry notes give this a solid core of fruit, while the tannins cling and hold the flavors in check, with a dash of toasty oak. Drink now through 2025. **92 Points; Outstanding** - *James Laube. June 2018*

Burghound

Fulcrum 2016 Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Gap's Crown Vineyard. A perfumed and appealingly spiced nose combines notes of pure black cherry, raspberry and exotic tea scents. The delicious and seductively textured flavors possess a lush, even opulent mid-palate that contrasts somewhat with the robust and muscular finish that is firm but better balanced. This ever-so-slightly warm effort will also need time to round off what are presently slightly angular tannins but in time this should be lovely. **92 Points** - *Allen Meadows. June 2018*

Robert Parker/Wine Advocate

Fulcrum 2016 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast)

Aged for 15 months in French oak, 50% new, the 2015 Pinot Noir Gap's Crown Vineyard reveals a pale to medium ruby color and notes of red and black cherries, red currants and sautéed herbs with a touch of forest floor. The medium-bodied palate offers a good amount of cherry and earth-laced flavors supported by chewy tannins and just enough freshness, finishing with an herbal lift. **92 Points; Outstanding** - *Lisa Perrotii-Brown, April 2018*

Jeb Dunnuck

Fulcrum 2016 Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Gap's Crown Vineyard. From a cool site out on the Sonoma Coast, the 2016 Pinot Noir Gap's Crown Vineyard offers a darker cherry, pomegranate, crushed rock and leafy herb-driven style. With medium-bodied richness, terrific purity, and building tannin, it's quite structured and tight, yet has tons of potential. Give bottles a few years and drink over the following decade. This cuvée was completely destemmed and spent 11 months in 40% new French oak. **92+ Points, Outstanding** - *Jeb Dunnuck. June 2018*

Robert Parker/Wine Advocate

Fulcrum 2015 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast)

Aged for 15 months in French oak, 50% new, the 2015 Pinot Noir Gap's Crown Vineyard reveals a pale to medium ruby color and notes of red and black cherries, red currants and sautéed herbs with a touch of forest floor. The medium-bodied palate offers a good amount of cherry and earth-laced flavors supported by chewy tannins and just enough freshness, finishing with an herbal lift. **92+ Points; Outstanding** - *Lisa Perrotii-Brown, March 2017*

PinotFile

2015 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir Dark reddish purple color in the glass. The nose soars with intense aromas of black raspberry, blackberry, spice, violets and vanilla. Filled with glorious California fruit kissed by the sun, this mid weight plus beauty is polished and silky, with rich flavors of purple and black berries with a compliment of toasty oak in the background. Sappy, but not compotey, with balanced tannins, juicy natural acidity, and a generous finish that taps into the pleasure centers of the brain. A bit hedonistic, but true to character of this vineyard. **94; Outstanding** - *Rusty Gaffney, April 2017*

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2015 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast)

Robustly spicy in cardamom and cinnamon cola, this wine explodes in dark berry fruit, its medium-bodied layers smoothed and velvety on the palate. From one of the more prominent sites within the Petaluma Gap's wind tunnel, this wine has a coastal influence of salty air about it. **92 Points Excellent** -*Virginie Boone, February 2017*

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2014 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast)

This is a spicy, fully plush and complete wine, integrated in oak and tannin with a strength of black-cherry compote that gives an extra edge. The length and texture are impressive, showcasing the power of the vineyard in a ripe, even vintage, and some deft winemaking as well. **94 Points Superb; A great achievement** *-Virginie Boone, February 2017*

PinotFile

2014 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir Aged 15 months in French oak barrels, 42% new. Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. The nose is initially brooding, but fans out over time to reveal enticing aromas of darker berry jam, spice and earth. A remarkable attack of mid weight plus black cherry, blackberry and spice flavors are flat out delicious. This wine is impeccably balanced with impressive mid palate presence and follow through into a long, masculine finish. A 60 minute wine: the bottle is sure to be gone in 60 minutes. **94; Outstanding** - *Rusty Gaffney, August 2016*

Burghound

2013 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"A cool, restrained and once again elegant nose features notes of red cherry, raspberry, rose petal and a hint of sandalwood. There is a bit more volume to the utterly delicious and seductively textured flavors that possess good vibrancy and a taut muscularity on the complex and balanced finale. This moderately structured and beautifully persistent effort will need a few years but it should be well worth the wait." **91 Points; Outstanding.** *-Allen Meadows, January 2016*

PinotReport

2013 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

Medium ruby color; spicy bright cherry and spice aromas with herbal notes; rich and focused dark cherry and plum flavors with warm earth and floral notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Focused and rich Pinot with good structure and a long finish. **93 Points** *-Greg Walter, March 2016*

Wine Enthusiast

Fulcrum 2013 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast)

Made in tiny quantities, this wine opens with aromas of crisp, just-peeled orange before unveiling silky tannins and a bite of oak. Light in color, it builds up layers of dark cherry, sage and mushroomy earth as it develops, with a substantial kick of texture and weight on the finish. **92 Points Excellent; Highly recommended** *-Virginie Boone, December 2015*

Restaurant Wine

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

2013 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"The Gap's Crown is of very fine quality: Fragrant, full bodied, and complex in character, with firm acidity and a very long finish, tasting of rose petal, cherry, plum, raspberry, clove, rosehips, and oak." **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*

PinotFile

2013 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir
"Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. The nose is very primary with only hints of olive and green tea. Much more expressive on the palate, with a tasty core of cherry fruit, a hint of oak, and a silky mouthfeel. The tannins are well matched to the mid weight plus fruit load, and the wine finishes with a charge of bright red cherry fruit. The nose was more expressive the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle offering the aroma of dark red cherry compote. The fruit flavor was more intense and the silky smooth texture continued to satisfy." **92 Points; Outstanding** - *Rusty Gaffney, July 2015*

Wine Review Online
2012 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir
"Lots of restraint is shown in this wine from the famed Gap's Crown Vineyard, and it's restraint well advised. **Many wineries opt for the big style when sourcing this fruit, but David Rossi rightly goes for an elegant expression**, bringing red cherry, strawberry, soft fall spice, mixed dried herb and mild dry earth. It's all delivered in a silky mouthfull that brings a crisp acid kick in the finish that bodes well for long term aging. Save this for your finest fowl preparations." **95 Points** - *Rich Cook, November 2014*

PinotReport
2012 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir
"Medium-deep ruby color; rich, spicy and herbal cherry aromas; rich, deep dark cherry flavors with herbal and oak notes; lush texture; **good structure and balance; long finish**. Lush, deep Pinot that needs some time in the bottle and glass." **93 Points, Smart Buy! Outstanding, approaching the best** - *Greg Walter, July 2014*

1WineDude
2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir
"Sage brushes, painting in pretty pastels with sweet red berry pigments." - *Joe Roberts, January 2014*

Restaurant Wine
"**A quartet of very good 2013 wines from this Pinot Noir specialist"**
2013 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir
"The Gap's Crown is of very fine quality: Fragrant, full bodied, and complex in character, with firm acidity and a very long finish, tasting of rose petal, cherry, plum, raspberry, clove, rosehips, and oak." **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*

PinotFile
"My favorite Pinot Noirs for the year"
2012 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir
"Planted in 2002, this is one of the Sonoma Coast's preeminent vineyards. Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. Enticing aromas of dark red berries and cherries, blueberries and baking spices. Engaging and harmonious, with a charge of chocolate-covered cherries flooding the mouth with pleasure. **The vivid fruit is perfectly ripened** and accented with an array of spices. **Beautifully crafted**, this wine is silky in the mouth, and ends with a glorious,

black cherry-laden, peacock tail finish. Still highly aromatic and flavorful the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle." **94 Points; Extraordinary** - *Rusty Gaffney, December 2014*

Wine Enthusiast

2012 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Gap's Crown remains a magical site for Pinot producers and Fulcrum does justice to it, providing a subtle entry of soft oak on the nose before letting it open further into dark, brambly berry and earth. The backbone is strong and structured, and the finish is long and soft, with an ideal seasoning of exotic Mediterranean spice and herb that linger fully and invite one in for more." **92 Points, Editors' Choice: Excellent; Highly recommended** - *Virginie Boone, December 2014*

Capital Gazette

"Premium Pinot Noirs"

2012 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Over several vintages of this wine, we have grown accustomed to its consistent style. It's very complex and rich but with an elegance and panache. It has a bold style with ethereal earthy notes and loads of cherries and spice." - *Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, February 2015*

Houston Lifestyles & Homes

Excellent Wines

2012 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Winemaker David Rossi says that this vineyard and others he works with are in California's coolest Pinot Noir regions, but are somewhat warmer sites than their neighbors, so that they get the flavors they want, balanced by poise and restraint. This is a well-balanced wine of earth, bramble berry and spice." - *Denman Moody, March 2015*

The Tasting Panel

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Deep ruby color; lush texture and deep, smooth, expansive cherry and plum fruit; juicy, long and complex with lovely, refined flavors; soft spice and elegant acidity." **93 Points; Outstanding** - *Anthony Dias Blue, February 2014*

Wine Enthusiast

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"There's a sappiness to this Pinot, a molasses-like richness that's an indication of extreme youth. It's packed with pure, creamy plums, cherries and red currants, with hints of bacon and spices that **add to the deliciousness factor**. You're best off cellaring this polished wine for 5-6 years, to let it start to mellow. Shows a welcome return to form for this bottling, after two tough vintages." **92 Points, Cellar Selection; Excellent, Highly recommended** - *Steve Heimoff, September 2013*

Wine Lines Online

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"**This is the type of wine that comes to mind when you think of 'California Pinot Noir.'** It's well extracted with some minerality, and a moderate earthy grip at the back suggests mid-term aging. With its assortment of 'baritone' notes - black tea approaching coffee), plum and cherry - this is a prime rib-worthy wine, nicely refined and generous on the palate." **90 Points** - *Glen Frederiksen, December 2013*

Restaurant Wine

2012 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"The Gap's Crown is a fuller and finer wine. It is supple in texture, full bodied, and very well balanced; a Pinot Noir with complex aromas/flavors (cherry, toast, spicy oak, red currant), a long palate evolution, and a very long finish. Can be aged a bit." **4+ out of 5 Stars: Excellent quality for its type, style, and price. Among the very best of its type for its price. Highly recommended**. - *Ronn Wiegand, April 2015*

New Jersey Star-Ledger

"Hesitant is not a descriptor for Rossi's **2012 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir**; it has a solid backbone of ripe, black cherry fruit with integrated tannins. **Sonoma Coast is one of California's best appellations for pinot noir, and Rossi's 2012 Fulcrum Sonoma Coast Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir shows why**: An eye-appealing purplish hue; red berry, white pepper and floral aromas, and a savory mix of black cherry, tarragon and mild vanilla flavors laced with velvety tannins." - *John Foy, July 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 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Deep ruby color; complex aromas of dark cherry and forest floor; deep and rich dark cherry flavors with herbs and forest floor notes; some oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Big, balanced Pinot with many layers of flavor."

93 Points; Outstanding; approaching the best - *Greg Walter, April 2013*

Wine Review Online

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"The Gap's Crown Vineyard is making a name for itself with many Pinot Noir producers. Fulcrum's David Rossi's expression delivers Black cherry, blackberry, cardamom, cinnamon, black tea and dry earth aromas with good translation to palate flavors, with a plush mouthfeel, firm acidity and a long finish that needs a bit more time to fully integrate. It improves markedly in the glass, so give it some good airtime before serving." **93 Points** - *Rich Cook, January 2014*

Burghound

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"The expressive and higher-toned nose offers up notes of dried flowers, exotic tea, plum and dark raspberry. There is a very lush, even opulent mouth feel to the middle weight flavors that possess excellent volume and mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a dusty, intense and balanced finish. The complexity isn't fully developed yet and will require a few years of cellaring but the velvety palate feel will allow this to be enjoyed young if desired."

90 Points; Outstanding. Worth a special effort to purchase - *Allen Meadows, April 2014*

Chicago Sun-Times

"Included in this selection of the '12 Wines of Christmas,' which of course are red dominant, are some recent favorites and past achievements that are sure to please and impress even your most discerning acquaintance."

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"I must admit that **I have a fondness for the prettiness of North Coast Pinot Noirs**, so it will not come as a surprise that this Pinot Noir is on my list. It is a bit obscure, but **worth the effort to find**. There are medium dark ruby tones with a fresh alluring cedar spice and strawberry compote in the nose. Delicate and restrained as it enters your mouth, which you should expect from a Pinot Noir, it then layers across the palate and expands with a full spectrum of fresh red fruit."

-W. Peter Hoyne, December 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 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir "Presents itself as elegantly as a courtier. Its aromas and flavors of strawberry and cherry, and vanilla from French oak barrel aging lifts from the glass and glides across the palate. **The seamlessness is artful**: It is full-bodied without being heavy and oak-accented without being oaky."

-John Foy, March 2014

The Press Democrat

Fall for a Silky Pinot Noir

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"The 2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard is also firm in acidity, a full-bodied red that's intense yet structured, billowy in dark berry fruit and an herbal undertone that'll evolve interestingly over time."

-Virginie Boone, November 2013

PinotFile

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Medium reddish-purple color in the glass. A little floral, a little tropical, but smelling primarily of sweet Pinot must. **Delicate, but satisfying flavors** of deep red stone fruits, pomegranates and berries, with bright acidity lifting the fruit's spirit. Well-seasoned oak shows up in the background. A little shallow upon opening, but tasted the next day from a previously opened and recorked bottle, this wine took on significantly more **aromatic and flavor intensity** and added a little spice for good measure." Very Good

-Rusty Gaffney, June 2013

City & Shore

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"David Rossi may reside in New Jersey, but he spends a lot of time in California, where he's been making wine since 2005. He chose the name Fulcrum for his new winery venture, as that word was **an ideal metaphor for his desire to create pinot noirs that are perfectly balanced. And create them he does**. His 2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir is **a show-stopper**."

-Bob Hosmon, September 2014

Philadelphia Weekly

Liquid Revelations

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"**I found myself swooning over the excellent new pinot noirs from Fulcrum, a producer that, if you're a fan not just of pinot but of, you know really good wine in general, you should be seeking out**. Their 2011 Gap's Crown Vineyard, for example, is stunning, with flavors that run the gamut from licorice, cherry and spice to chocolate and plum, traversing a huge range of deliciousness in between. It's a balanced, wonderful bottle of wine that will pair equally well with sautéed salmon as it will with a burger. Or just enjoy it on its own."

-Brian Freedman, February 2014

Arizona Daily Sun

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Fulcrum comes in a classy, distinctive bottle, but more importantly is **superb Pinot Noir**. I enjoyed its powerful, rich fruit and refined, silky smooth texture. But perhaps most impressive is its finish, which is complex, bold and outstandingly long."

-John Vankat, February 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.** Among the vineyards from which he buys fruit are … the stellar Gap's Crown Vineyard in Sonoma Coast, in the teeth of the Petaluma wind gap. (This vineyard produces what may be the most expensive PN fruit in California—and some of the best.) Each vineyard-designated wine is a unique statement, which is seen when you taste all the wines side by side. Which few will do. And though prices may seem high, **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 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Perhaps the best of the Fulcrum wines. A wild earthy, minerally aroma has a note of violet and a regional complexity that David Rossi called 'Gap-y.' **A truly great wine** that is actually a bargain at the price. Needs 5-8 more years. And it'll last: the pH is a low 3.53." **Exceptional**

-Dan Berger, October 2013

Piedmont Post

"The following list catalogues the wines that stood out among a huge sea of also-rans. They are **wines of great character and quality and are worth searching out**. They show that some of **the finest wines in the state** are created in small, unknown, out of the way places by wineries that are fueled by family love and devotion."

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"From a cool, windy area of the Sonoma Coast appellation comes this interesting, complex Pinot. It exhibits that beautiful sweet black currant, flowery nose, with black raspberry and ripe cherryflavors mixed with spring flowers and a touch of spiciness from the wood. It is exquisitely savory and should drink well for a decade."

-Bill McNabb, September 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."

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Again, this Pinot Noir is driven by its gorgeous nose, an entirely different nose than the Londer. As it should be, and can be, when you focus on the fruit and not the oak regimen or extraction. The fruit here is darker, and more feral. That feral quality, sort of like forest floor mixed with a sage character, a wild and untamed impression, is a quality I seem to get often in Petaluma Gap Pinot Noirs—some from Sangiacomo Vineyard have it. It's a quality that pairs really nicely with earthy foods—mushroom enhanced meals, or duck, maybe cassoulet. But I thought this was **beautifully rendered wine, with Fred Astaire-like masculine grace**, and I was very impressed by how the flavors lingered. Like Astaire, not just style, but grace."

-Ron Washam, July 2013

Restaurant Wine

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"The Gap's Crown is excellent: very supple in texture and distinctly flavored (raspberry, cherry, sage), with crisp acidity and a very long finish. Can be aged a bit." **4/5 Stars: Excellent quality for its type, style, and price. Among the very best of its type for its price. Highly recommended**

-Ronn Wiegand, January 2014

RJ on Wine

2011 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Medium ruby color; black cherry, black raspberry nose; tight, black cherry, black raspberry palate; medium-plus finish."

91+ Points - *Richard Jennings, September 2013*

Burghound

2010 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"A pure and airy nose of cranberry and cherry liqueur aromas enjoy added breadth from the presence of plum and spice nuances. There is very good richness to the polished and clean middle weight flavors that possess impressive mid-palate concentration before culminating in a complex, intense, balanced and admirably persistent finish. Worth considering."

90 Points - *Allen Meadows*

PinotReport

2010 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Deep ruby color; dark cherry and plum aromas with vanilla and earthy notes; deep, complex, plum flavors with spice, vanilla and earthy notes; some tannin and sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. This is a Pinot that offers great flavors right now for a hearty dish but also will reward several years in the cellar."

92 Points - *Gregory Walter, September 2012*

Examiner

Fulcrum Wines: Crazy for Pinot Noir

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

2009 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Fulcrum 2009 Gap's Crown Vineyard, Sonoma Coast is a deep crimson wine that aims to please. One sniff shows earth, desert sage, spice, anise, dark cherries and berry compote aromas. The flavors express rich dark berries, spice, and dried hay with an earthy, savory undertone This is a balanced full-bodied wine with excellent acid and well-honed tannins that bring you to a long and seductively silky intense finish. This is one age-worthy and substantial wine, and one is worth cellaring, but if you can't wait to open it, decant it. But your patience will bring more rewards. **David Rossi is an impressive new producer already garnering great scores. These wines are indeed something special**."

-Barbara Hay, August 2011

Burghound

2009 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"An elegant, airy and restrained nose of black cherry, cassis and subtle spice notes gives way to lush, round and **utterly delicious** middle weight flavors that possess excellent complexity on the textured and extract-rich finish that is dusty, mouth coating and impressively persistent. This moderately structured effort should age beautifully and while it will be necessary to have some patience, I found this to be very promising." **91 Points** - *Allen Meadows*

PinotReport

2008 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Medium-deep ruby color; deep, complex black cherry and berry aromas with some earthy and anise notes; deep, complex berry and black cherry flavors with cinnamon and earthy notes; some tannin and sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep and complex with a lot of age ahead of it. Needs a ton of time in the glass to open up."

93 Points - *Gregory Walter, December 2010*

PinotFile

2010 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Brightly perfumed with aromas of black plums, blackberry jam and Chinese Five Spice. Deliciously rich core of blackberry and plum reduction sauce flavors with a very appealing accent of spice. The wines fills the mouth with fruit, grabbing your attention, but is light on its feet due to supple tannins and impeccable balance. A big boy Pinot with **black tie class and flat-out terrific**." - *Rusty Gaffney, July 2012*

PinotReport

"This issue features some terrific new releases."

2009 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Deep ruby color; complex plum and cranberry aromas with forest floor notes; complex, rich plum and cherry flavors with earthy, herbal notes; some tannin and sweet oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Complex, deep Pinot with a lot of interesting layers just waiting for some air time to open them up!"

93 Points - *Gregory Walter, January 2012*

PinotFile

2009 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Moderate ruby color in the glass. This wine aims to please with aromas of dark cherries and berries, anise, and spice and similar flavors with an earthy, savory undertone. Medium weighted and moderately dense with a **well-honed tannic backbone and a seductive silkiness**. Much better with brighter fruit flavors the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle. Decant if you open now, but patience will bring more rewards." **Very Good+**
-Rusty Gaffney, July 2011

Wine Enthusiast

2008 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Big and powerful, but nuanced despite its size. It's a dark, extracted wine, filled with wild cherry, raspberry, currant and sandalwood flavors, as well as exotic notes of forest balsam, grilled mushrooms, tamari and dusty Indian spices. **Super-complex**, it changes with every sip, and should change interestingly over the next six years. The vineyard is in the Petaluma Gap, and argues strongly for that region's future."
95 Points: Superb; A great achievement - *Steve Heimoff, September 2010*

Burghound

2008 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"A relatively deeply pitched nose of violets and black cherry leads to rich, round and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that culminate in an ever-so-mildly austere yet complex finish. This is quite solid as there is no overt sweetness and almost no warmth to the finish. Worth a look." **90 Points** - *Allen Meadows*

Wine Spectator

2008 Fulcrum Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir

"Delivers complex aromatics of black tea, forest floor, dried berry, spice and sage. This is full-bodied, firm and focused, young and tight, fanning out nicely, ending with fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2014." **90 Points** - *James Laube, 2010*