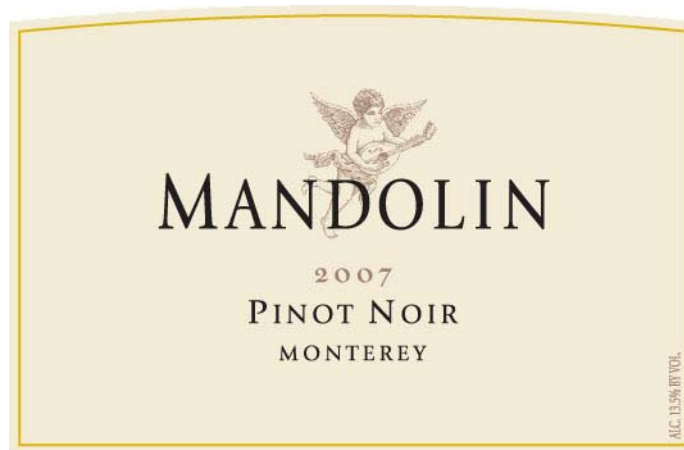


StarTribune

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 1/7/2009



WINE OF THE WEEK

Mandolin Monterey Pinot Noir 2007

The experience: Ever since "Sideways," it has become increasingly difficult to find a really good pinot noir for \$15 or so. Well, search no more, for this mouth-filling delight should appeal to novices and cork dorks alike. The cherry-berry flavors are augmented by a seriously smooth texture.

The setting: There's just enough acidity here to make this silky-soft wine mesh with roast chicken, older cheeses and, of course, grilled salmon.

The back story: This wine is part of a \$200 mixed case I've put together at our blog, www.startribune.com/blogs/wine. Pardon the shameless self-promotion, but also new to that site is a link to a rather exhaustive list of recommended white wines.

BILL WARD

www.mandolinwines.com