

# BLACK KITE CELLARS

## Wine Spectator

**92PTS** 2012 *Black Kite Cellars Kite's Rest Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley* Beautifully crafted and rich, this is focused on a core of black cherry and wild berry, with savory herb and dusty earth notes. For all the richness, there's a pleasing sense of elegance and grace here, even if the tannins require some patience.

**91PTS** 2012 *Black Kite Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands* Bold, ripe and intense, brimming with juicy blackberry and wild berry flavors and shaded by cedary oak, spice and rose petal scents. Maintains an assertive profile through the finish.

**90PTS** 2012 *Black Kite Redwoods' Edge Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley* Intense and concentrated, with a savory cola edge to the blackberry and black cherry flavors, firming and flexing tannic muscle on the dry finish. Best from 2016 through 2022. 198 cases made.

**90PTS** 2012 *Black Kite Stony Terrace Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley* Attractive aromas of dried herb given this a savory scent, trim and firm, with drying fruit, sage and tannins that slowly build, revealing a touch of mint. The flavors gain traction in the end.

wine<sup>review</sup>online.com

*Black Kite's Gap's Crown Chardonnay* is a pure delight, exhibiting freshness and minerality as well as a generous dose of lemon-curd and pear aroma. With mouth-watering acidity, this is a Chardonnay that will pair well with simple grilled fish preparations or as a summer sipper. An impressive wine from winemaker Jeff Gaffner, who went with a lighter-than-usual touch of oak.

**96PTS** 2012 *Black Kite Cellars 2012 Angel Hawk Pinot Noir Anderson Valley* This is a statement wine from Black Kite, a big, rich example of the power and depth their estate vineyard in the Anderson Valley can deliver. Though big and voluptuous, it remains balanced and focused, showing bright raspberry and cherry fruit, with a hint of cola. On the palate the wine delivers layered complexity, with persistence into the finish and a bit of grip on the back end. This is an extremely dynamic Pinot Noir from one of California's most dynamic Pinot producers.



**94PT** 2012 *Black Kite Cellars "Redwoods' Edge" Anderson Valley Pinot Noir* Very smoothly textured with hedonistic concentration and a balanced tannic backbone. Amazingly long finish fueled by bright acidity that lasts over 30 seconds. This wine really taps the pleasure centers in the brain.

**92PTS** 2012 *Black Kite Cellars Glass House Vineyard Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir* Full-bodied with balanced tannins, toasty oak, and a soft finish featuring a generous, chewy burst of black cherry fruit.

**92PTS** 2012 *Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest" Anderson Valley Pinot Noir* The flavors echo the nose with added hints of black plum, cola and oak. Juicy, with admirable oak integration, modest tannins, and a generous cherry-driven finish. A welcoming wine that aims to please.



**94PTS** *Editor's Choice 2012 Black Kite Cellars Stony Terrace Pinot Noir*



**92PTS** 2012 *Black Kite Redwood's Edge Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley* Bright and juicy with lovely cherry, raspberry and earth; fine acid structure and tangy style; bright and long with elegance and finesse.

**91PTS** 2012 *Black Kite Pinot Noir, Stony Terrace, Anderson Valley* Tangy and bright with cherry fruit and lively, crisp acidity; vibrant and juicy with long, sinuous flavors; racy and showing excellent structure.

**90PTS** 2012 Black Kite Kite's Rest Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley Smooth and lush with ripe cherry, raspberry and spice; mellow, balanced and dense, rich and long.  
- Anthony Dias Blue, Tasting Panel



**91PTS** 2012 Black Kite Stony Terrace Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**90PTS** 2012 Black Kite Soberanes Vineyards Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands  
- Nick Ponamareff, California Grapevine



"Excellent" 2012 Black Kite Stony Terrace Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley  
"A perfect marriage of power and elegance with a deliriously wild and seductive bouquet."  
- Fredric Koepfel, Bigger Than Your Head

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences  
The Weekly Wine Commentary

"Exceptional" 2012 Black Kite Glass House Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast  
- Dan Berger



**96PTS** 2012 Black Kite Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay, Santa Lucia Highlands (Monterey County) "This is one of the finest Chardonnays I've yet tasted from the gifted winemaker Jeff Gaffner. It has everything you would want in a world class Chardonnay. It's a truly stunning wine, and there is far too little of it to go around."  
- Robert Whitley, Whitley on Wine



**91PTS** 2012 Black Kite Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay, Santa Lucia Highlands  
The 2012 Chardonnay Soberanes Vineyard is gorgeous. Seeing ten months in 50% new French oak, it offers a fresh, lively and beautifully pure feel in its citrus

blossom, lychee and green fruits. This all flows nicely to a medium-bodied Chardonnay that has good richness and mid-palate, yet is defined by its bright, integrated and juicy acidity. Enjoy this balanced, energetic and classic Chard over the coming 3-5 years.



**92PTS** 2011 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir



**94PTS** 2011 River Turn Pinot Noir

**93PTS** 2011 Stony Terrace Pinot Noir

**91PTS** 2011 Redwoods' Edge Pinot Noir



**93PTS** Redwoods' Edge

**93PTS** 2011 River Turn

**91PTS** 2011 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay

**90PTS** 2011 Stony Terrace



**92PTS** 2011 River Turn Pinot Noir

**91PTS** 2011 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay



2011 Stony Terrace Pinot Noir  
Peg Melnik's "Wines to Try"  
"A striking Pinot. Impressive for its depth"

## Bigger Than Your Head

2011 Stony Terrace Pinot Noir

"An exquisitely layered wine from one of my favorite pinot noir producers."

## Wine Spectator

**92PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**92PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "River Turn" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**92PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**92PTS NEW!** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Soberanes Vineyard" Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands



**92PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Angel Hawk" Pinot Noir

## wine<sup>review</sup>online.com

**95PTS** Black Kite 2010 Redwoods' Edge Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley I liken the Black Kite vineyard site to the Diamond Creek wine estate in the distant Napa Valley. Technically Black Kite is one vineyard, but winemaker Jeff Gaffner has been able to identify various zones within the vineyard that yield unique personality, so unique the vineyard has been effectively divided into distinct blocks. The 2010 Redwoods' Edge pinot possesses a floral note along with aromas of strawberry and raspberry. It is beautifully structured, exhibiting firm grip with a touch of minerality despite a rich, oily palate. This is the essence of outstanding pinot -- flavor development without losing the tension between ripeness and structure. In this case, or black if you will, Mr. Gaffner nailed it.

- Robert Whitley



**STUNNING: PINOT GEEK (94-98PTS)** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "River Turn" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**PINOT GEEK (94-98PTS)** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**VERY GOOD (90-93PTS)** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**VERY GOOD (90-93PTS)** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**VERY GOOD (90-93PTS)** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Soberanes Vineyard" Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands



**92PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Soberanes Vineyard" Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands

**92PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**91PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**90PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**90PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**91PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "River Turn" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**90PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**90PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

**90PTS** Black Kite Cellars 2010 "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley



**90PTS** "Cellar Selection" Black Kite Cellars 2010 Soberanes Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands



**92PTS** 2009 *BLACK KITE* Stony Terrace Pinot Noir  
Optimally ripened, black cherry fruit merges with a nice touch of sweet, oaky spice in the deep and very well-focused aromas of this outgoing young Pinot,... has all of the pieces in place to age famously for five or more years.

**91PTS** 2009 *BLACK KITE* Kite's Rest Pinot Noir  
There is no getting away from the fact that this ample Pinot is driven by ripeness, but it is packed with very deep, well-defined varietal fruit as well... it more than makes up in richness for what it may lack in finesse, and a few years of cellaring will pay real dividends.

**90PTS** 2009 *BLACK KITE* Redwoods' Edge Pinot Noir  
Not at all wanting for concentration and extract, it offers plenty of promise for those willing to wait a few extra years.

## Wine Spectator

**95PTS** 2009 *Black Kite Cellars "Angel Hawk" Pinot Noir*  
Gorgeous, ripe, intense and focused, with a chorus of dark berry fruit that shows hints of mocha, cedar and licorice, ending with a long, plush, engaging finish. Drink now through 2022. 109 cases.

**94PTS** 2009 *Black Kite Cellars Redwoods' Edge Pinot Noir*  
Deliciously elegant, supple, graceful and delicate, yet rich in wild berry, plum, raspberry and floral scents. Medium bodied and deceptively deep and persistent, with the perfumed flavors gaining all the way. Drink now through 2018.

**92PTS** 2009 *Black Kite Cellars Stony Terrace Pinot Noir*  
Intense, yet creamy and layered, with complex aromatics that lead to berry flavors built around blueberry and loganberry. Full-bodied and spicy, ending with a full, persistent finish and firm tannins. Best from 2012 through 2020.

**90PTS** 2009 *Black Kite Cellars River Turn Pinot Noir*  
Firm and intense, with concentrated blackberry and wild berry, cola and spice. Full-bodied, with a mix of mineral and pebble notes that tighten on the finish. Best from 2012 through 2019.

**90PTS** 2009 *Black Kite Cellars Kite's Rest Pinot Noir*  
A savory, moderately ripe style, this concentrated red shows pebble, dried berry, currant and sage flavors. Full-bodied, gaining depth and dimension and ending with a pretty touch of black licorice. Drink now through 2017.



**92PTS** 2009 Black Kite Cellars "Angel Hawk" Pinot Noir

## PINOTREPORT

PASSIONATE ABOUT WESTERN PINOT NOIR

**93PTS** 2009 *Black Kite Cellars Kite's Rest Pinot Noir*  
Medium-deep ruby color; complex cherry and berry aromas with cinnamon and toasty notes; deep, rich, cherry flavors with some earthy and cinnamon notes, silky texture with toasty oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Complex and big Pinot with a lot of deep flavors; really needs two hours in the glass to show its stuff.

**93PTS** 2009 *Black Kite Cellars Stony Terrace Pinot Noir*  
Deep ruby color; dense, deep dark cherry and plum aromas with toasty cinnamon notes; rich and full concentrated cherry flavors with lots of earthy, spicy notes; some tannin and toasty oak; good structure and balance; long finish. Deep, dark, dense Pinot; once it opens up it's a perfect pairing for beef shortribs or a grilled steak.



**91PTS** 2009 *Black Kite Cellars Stony Terrace Pinot Noir*  
- Anthony Dias Blue



**93PTS** 2009 *Black Kite Cellars "River's Turn" Pinot Noir*  
"Highly Recommended"

**92PTS** 2009 *Black Kite Cellars "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir*  
"Highly Recommended"

wine**review**online.com

"Black Kite Pinot Noirs of Anderson Valley... to my palate are as good as any Pinots made in the New World."

**95PTS** 2009 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest Vineyard" Pinot Noir "Layered, rich... beautifully balanced"  
- Robert Whitley, Wine Review Online



2009 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest Vineyard" Pinot Noir  
"A real lip-smacker. A very harmonious wine that will age beautifully and one to savor over a meal with good friends."

## PINOTREPORT

PASSIONATE ABOUT WESTERN PINOT NOIR

**91PTS** 2008 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir

**92PTS** 2008 Black Kite Cellars "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir



Narsai David's KCBS radio show

2008 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest Vineyard" Pinot Noir  
Rich, medium deep red color - garnet actually - glistening garnet. The smoky aroma if not only a classic Pinot Noir character, but indeed influenced also by a bit of smokiness from the forest fires of 2008. On the palate, a seriously well balanced Pinot Noir... Surely one to lay down. A fine amount of tannin with lots of fruit overlaid right up front. Here's a wine to save for a few years. Very very well done.

Wine**S**kinny.com

2008 Black Kite Cellars "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir  
One of the biggest, ripest (and high-ish alcohol) Pinot Noirs I think I've ever tasted from Anderson Valley, but it worked with the filets. Offering loads of intense black cherry aromas and flavors, with accents of rose petal, vanilla toast and spicy dark chocolate, and a long, lush finish. Ready to drink now and over the next 4-5 years.

## San Francisco Chronicle

### TOP 100 WINES OF 2009

2007 Black Kite Cellars "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir  
The first scent of an ever-evolving nose is evocatively char-tinged, like a burning field at harvest, leading to toasted baking spices. It's a shape-shifter, always changing, with very ripe fruit flavors but a masterful approach.



**97PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Angel Hawk" Pinot Noir  
"I closed my eyes and let my imagination wander... La Tache, Griotte-Chambertin, Le Romanee, Richebourg...Indeed, Black Kite Angel Hawk is that good."  
- Robert Whitley

## Wine Spectator

**93PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir  
"Offers a delicious core of ripe, firm wild berry and blackberry fruit, with a touch of anise, raspberry and sage. Full-bodied, focused, sleek and refined, this keeps the fruit front and center from start to finish. Drink now through 2012"  
- James Laube

**93PTS** 2007 Black Kite "River Turn" Pinot Noir  
"Elegant and refined, offering spicy plum, raspberry and wild berry fruit that's pure and delicious. Full-bodied, with hints of sage, wilted rose and loamy mineral notes that gain traction on the finish. Drink now through 2013"  
- James Laube

**92PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir  
Black Kite's "Kite's Rest" 2007 from Mendocino's Anderson Valley tops the charts this week, with a ripe, fleshy offering. "Very ripe and rich. Full-bodied, with tiers of black cherry, wild berry, plum and spice. Picks up a spicy, mineral edge and gains body on the finish, where the fruit is pure and fleshy. Drink now through 2014. 726 cases made."  
- James Laube



**94PTS** 2007 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir  
 "Delicious doesn't begin to describe this Pinot Noir. Other words that come to mind are serious, important and ageable. Made from the valley's coolest, foggiest "deep end," it's extraordinarily rich, with explosive flavors of black and red currants, cola, mocha, licorice and cedar. Black Kite has really turned into a Pinot producer to watch. Drink now through 2012."  
 - Steve Heimoff

**93PTS** 2007 Black Kite Cellars "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir  
 Very rich and bold, a big, potent Pinot Noir showing considerable concentration. In its youth it's like a Starbucks concoction, with opulent flavors of chocolate, raspberry and red cherry purée, cola, bacon, pepper and sandalwood. Probably best to let it mellow in the cellar for a couple of years. The flavors aren't going away anytime soon.

**92PTS** 2007 Black Kite Cellars "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir  
 This is a very big Pinot Noir. Purists may say it's too big for its own good. It's dark and pretty full-bodied, and shows dramatic waves of blackberries, black cherries, currants, mocha, bacon, sandalwood and dusty Asian spices, wrapped into finely ground tannins. Give it a good decant if you drink it before 2011.

## PINOTREPORT

PASSIONATE ABOUT WESTERN PINOT NOIR

**94PTS** 2007 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir  
 Medium-deep ruby color; deep, rich, complex dark cherry aromas with earthy and oak notes; big, ripe and rich with deep black cherry, herbs and earthy flavors; great texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Complex, big and balanced Pinot that needs at least an hour in the glass to really show itself. Pair with a hearty dish.



**94PTS** 2007 Black Kite "River Turn" Pinot Noir  
 These latest offering from Black Kite are all highly recommendable wines and, in truth, trying to pick a favorite is a maddening if rather happy task. The rich and wonderfully deep River Turn bottling is rife with the confident, keenly defined fruit that is at the heart of each of the winery's efforts, and it similarly brings just the right amount of nice oak into play in just the right places. It is both velvety and yet beautifully

balanced by integral acids with a wonderfully persistent finish, and we would not be at all surprised to see it gain in refinement and range for upwards of a half-decade or more.

**93PTS** 2007 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir  
 From its keenly defined ripe-cherry aromas through its rounded, nicely filled fruit flavors and its decidedly supple, slightly velvety feel, this noteworthy Pinot strikes all the right varietal marks and comes with a little more depth and range than most. If sufficiently smoothed to invite early drinking, it is nonetheless structured for keeping and seems certain to repay a few years of patience with increased complexity.

**92PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir  
 Right from the start, this tantalizing Pinot Noir impresses with its layered mix of very deep and well-defined ripe cherry fruit and careful creamy oak sweetness, and at no point does it waver in focus or let up in richness even a little. It is at once supple and fleshy and slightly firm in balance, and its overall construction is that of a wine that, however good it is now, can only get better with additional age.

**91PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir  
 Sharing the Black Kite virtues of ripeness and solid fruit, this big-bodied Pinot conveys a fine sense of concentration and depth with varietal cherries and sweet oak to spare. It has more than enough fruity substance with which to buffer its slight trim of last-minute heat, and, while it is presently a touch coarse at the finish, a wait of two or three years will do the trick in smoothing off its youthful edges.

## wine<sup>review</sup>online.com

"(one of) My favorite discoveries over the past year was Black Kite, a newcomer to the Anderson Valley with a stunning array of black-specific Pinots from its estate vineyard. They deserve all the kudos they get."  
 - Robert Whitley, Wine Review Online

**90PTS** 2007 Black Kite "River Turn" Pinot Noir  
 "River Turn, one of Black Kite Cellars' three single-vineyard Pinot Noirs, is a lighter-styled, very pleasant wine with distinct raspberry flavors. A very typical Anderson Valley-styled Pinot Noir"  
 - Ed McCarthy, May 26, 2009

**94PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir

**93PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir

**91PTS** 2007 Black Kite "River Turn" Pinot Noir

**90PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir

"Like the best Burgundies, Black Kite's three vineyard-block wines express the mystery of terroir... That's what makes the Black Kite wines special -- and that's also why these are wines for wine lovers, not trophyseekers."

- W. Blake Gray

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences  
The Weekly Wine Commentary

**"EXCEPTIONAL"** 2007 Black Kite "Angel Hawk" Pinot Noir  
Even more oak, but perfectly integrated with more density and weight. Reminds me more of an '06 and should age well.

**"EXCEPTIONAL"** 2007 Black Kite "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir  
Superb smoke/cherry aroma with hints of cinnamon or other brown spice and a trace of violet in the finish.

**"EXCEPTIONAL"** 2007 Black Kite "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir  
Superb with darker fruit, a faint mushroom/Burgundian note, and true varietal character.

Stephen Tanzer's  
INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

**91PTS** 2007 Black Kite "River Turn" Pinot Noir

Vivid red. Complex scents of red currant, cherry, smoky herbs and potpourri; smells like a top-notch wine from Morey-Saint-Denis. Fleshy red fruit flavors are sharpened by zesty mineral and spice qualities and gain power on the back end. Changed a lot in the glass, developing dark berry and cola notes on the long, sappy finish. This wine would also benefit from decanting, or age.

- JR

**90PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir

Light red color. Strongly perfumed bouquet of spicy red berries and cherry pit, with a strong undercurrent of minerals. Youthfully tangy red fruit flavors pack a punch but are fat-free and impressively lithe. Finishes with impressive mineral persistence and very good clarity. This is a blend of Dijon clones 114 and 115.

**90+PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir

Bright red. Tight, slow-to-open aromas of redcurrant, cherry and pungent flowers. Bright, tightly coiled red

berry flavors slowly loosen to display sweeter, deeper cherry-cola and blackberry notes. Gains weight on the finish, which is long and strikingly pure. This is all Pommard clone.

Anthony Dias  
BLUE REVIEWS

**92PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir

Seductive red-cherry fruit with bright acidity and great structure, long, elegant and beautifully balanced with lovely depth.

- Anthony Dias Blue

**90PTS** 2007 Black Kite "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir

Vibrant cherry fruit with lovely velvety texture and fine acidity; rich with vanilla oak and sweet, ripe fruit.

- Anthony Dias Blue



2007 Black Kite "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir  
"First Place.. Very Highly Recommended"

Bigger Than Your Head

2007 Black Kite "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir

"...an absolutely beautiful, pure and intense pinot noir that called forth terms like "Wow!" from my pen. The bouquet is a classic wreathing of smoky black cherry, cola, cloves and plums, with, in a few moments, whiffs of violets and dried rose petals. The wine delivers great presence, tone and texture, sliding across the tongue like warm satin but without being heavy or obvious; it draws you in like banked embers on a chilly night. Flavors of black cherry and plum with a hint of cranberry become a little ta-like, and after some time, say an hour, the wine takes on a note of austerity, and the oak and tannin come up, foresty and mossy. A complete success, elegant and exciting."

- Fredric Koepfel



2007 Black Kite Cellars "River Turn" Pinot Noir

"Very pretty black cherry robe. Exotically perfumed with wild berries, black cherries, herbs and grass. Perfect balance of ripe raspberry and blackberry fruit, vibrant acidity and refined tannins. The mouth feel is soft and gentle with an endless finish that holds on tight for what seems an eternity."

## San Francisco Chronicle

### TOP 100 WINES OF 2008

*2006 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir*  
Entrepreneur Donald Green and his family have dedicated their vineyard site northwest of Philo to single-plot Pinot expressions. Their 2006 lineup, from winemaker Jeff Gaffner, was superb. This blend of various blocks is a fantastically clear, bright expression of Anderson Valley Pinot, with toasted spice and dry pine on the nose, a bit of heady earth and then layers of buoyant cranberry and black cherry.

## Wine Spectator

### 2007 HOT NEW DOZEN PINOT PRODUCERS, 91PTS

*2006 Black Kite Cellars "River Turn" Pinot Noir*  
"Shows off a distinctive loganberry and wild plum flavor that's complex and appealing. Elegant, balanced and well-focused on the fruit, this picks up a nice anise and cedary oak edge that's a joy to drink. Drink now through 2015"

**90PTS** *2006 Black Kite Cellars "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir*  
Well-focused on elegant black cherry and red plum fruit. Delicate tight and complex, with subtle spice, cedar and mineral notes, ending with a clean, lip-smacking finish.



**93PTS** *2006 Black Kite "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir*  
"Black Kite has established itself in a short time as a winery to watch from the increasingly impressive Anderson Valley. The grapes for this bottling are from the "deep end", the coolest, foggiest part of the appellation, and the wine is firm in acids. Yet it's supple and silky and elegant with bracing cherry, currant, balsam, soy and oak flavors that are complex and delicious."

**91PTS** *2006 Black Kite Cellars "River Turn" Pinot Noir*  
"Give this crisp young wine some time in a decanter, and it gets better as it warms up in the glass, evolving from being tight, acidic and closed to offering exotic flavors of raspberry jam, tangerine zest and baked cherry pie, complete with the smoky-sweet crust. Best now through 2011."

## epicurious

*2006 Black Kite Cellars "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir*  
A must-buy for any Pinot-phile. Crafting limited-production Pinots (less than 900 cases), this family-owned winery's focus is on expression of place. One of three wines names for small blacks within the vineyard, the Redwoods' Edge shows off a floral elegance I've not experienced outside Burgundy.



**90PTS** *2006 Black Kite Cellars "River Turn" Pinot Noir*  
A bit reserved at first but lifting and unfolding with air, this very pleasant bottling starts in the nose with sweet cherry aromas and then picks up creamy, quietly toasty oak notes. Full and balanced on the palate, direct at this writing but suggesting bits of layered complexity in the late going, this wine wants a few years in the cellar to show at its best.



**92PTS** *2006 Black Kite Cellars "River Turn" Pinot Noir*  
The debut release for this north-facing vineyard black within the estate Kite's Rest Vineyard in the valley's remote, chilly "Deep End." This unfiltered, unfiltered Pinot offers dark berry-strawberry aromas enhanced with vanilla custard and a touch of mushroom. Fleshy, round and silky smooth with medium tannins, the flavors focus on juicy wild strawberry with a touch of oak spice; elegant yet generous, lingering nicely in the close.

**91PTS** *2006 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir*  
Intense, fragrant nose of cinnamon-clove spice, ripe, just-crushed dark berries, mocha and lavender with a hint of pomegranate juice. Super smooth and juicy with medium tannins, this is an elegant Pinot with generous flavors that replicate the nose, together with wonderfully focused acidity. The long finish takes on a framboise-like richness.

**90PTS** *2006 Black Kite Cellars "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir*  
Alluring, complex nose of freshly crushed wild strawberry accented by notes of mocha and mushroom. Seamless and round with medium tannins, this is a superbly elegant rendering of Pinot, with spice shadings the pure wild berry fruit that resounds into the extended close.



*2006 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir*

"This wine draws you in with terrific black cherry, dark chocolate and spicy oak scents. Richly layered with dark fruits including plum with a nice side-car of oak. Velvety in texture, clean, and beautifully composed. This one captures both the power and finesse of Pinot Noir. Everything you could want and some things you didn't know to ask for. Flat out terrific."

## San Francisco Chronicle



*2006 Black Kite Cellars "Kite's Rest" Pinot Noir*

Telecom entrepreneur Donald Green and his family purchased the Kite's Rest vineyard site in the northern part of the valley in 1995, northwest of Philo toward the coast. Their Black Kite Cellars showed remarkably well in our panel. The wines are made by Jeff Gaffner, whose Saxon Brown label turns out superior Zinfandels. This blend of the various blocks, the most affordable of the bunch, is a fantastically pure expression of Anderson Valley Pinot, with toasted spice and dry pine on the nose, a bit of funky earth and then layers of buoyant cranberry and black cherry. There's clarity and acid-led definition, doubly surprising given the 14.7 percent alcohol (apparently standard for the 2006 Black Kite wines).



*2006 Black Kite Cellars "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir*

Redwoods' Edge is the highest (321 feet), steepest and lowest yielding of Black Kite's three blocks, providing less than 2 tons of fruit per acre. It offers up a heftier wine, with more overt oak and heat amid a mix of very ripe and leaner, more tangy bright fruit, plus berry-leaf notes, cinnamon and allspice. One taster detected sweet corn. There's impressive delicacy given its size.



*2006 Black Kite Cellars "River Turn" Pinot Noir*

By contrast, River Turn is the lowest of Black Kite's parcels, planted to Pommard clone with more sand and silt in the soil. The oak is overt, but to match there is a subtle fragrance: allspice, lavender and floral hints. That's offset with dusty, dark loam notes, sappy cherry, cranberry and boysenberry. The fruit is lush and juicy, and the structure is very well managed.

**RON WASHAM, HMW**

"One of the highlights of my day was tasting at the Black Kite table. (Black Kite is named for the Black SHouldered Kite, now known as the White Tailed Kite--the Obama of raptors, apparently.) Black Kite is located in Anderson Valley in Mendocino County, and has quickly become one of the top Pinot Noir producers in that county. They were serving their yet-to-be-released 2007 Pinot Noirs, and all four of them were gorgeous! The Black Kite 2007 Kite's Rest Anderson Valley is a blend of their vineyard sites. Here's a wine that makes an instant impression in your mouth, sort of like dental equipment, only pleasant. Bright with acidity, the hallmark of the subtlety of all the Black Kite wines, it has lovely, restrained black cherry and spice fruit. The 2007 Redwoods' Edge was a wine so pretty I could just smell it all day and be perfectly happy. Like a new car, of Ann Coulter's protective cup. I nearly forgot to taste it I was so busy inhaling. But it didn't disappoint, it was elegant and lovely, filled with promising fruit. By the time it's released it should be truly wonderful Pinot Noir. The 2007 Stony Terrace was equally impressive, but struck me as a bit more structured. It can be hard to tell at this age, but there's no mistaking the Black Kite wines for anything but topnotch. The Stony Terrace had aromas of red fruits, cherry and raspberry, with underlying notes of white pit fruit that spoke to its bright acidity and balance. In a few years, these wines should be just bursting with lush, sweet fruit flavors. Finally, the Black Kite 2007 River Turn may have been my favorite Pinot Noir of the entire event. It was the biggest of the Black Kite Beauties, but never wanted for elegance, intensity or beauty. The promise of Anderson Valley Pinot Noir is fulfilled in a glass of this whoopee juice. Get on their list now before the wines are released, they are made in very small quantities, like my jokes, and just as hard to get."

## The WINE ADVOCATE.

**92PTS** 2005 *Black Kite Cellars Pinot Noir*

A beautiful Pinot Noir, deep ruby/purple with notes of blueberry, raspberry, and sweet cherry, the fruit dominates in a relatively complex style. On the palate, it is medium to full-bodied, with good fresh acidity, a cool-climate mouthfeel, but beautiful precision, elegance, and purity. Drink it over the next 3-4 years.

Wine Advocate # 174, Dec 2007

- Robert Parker

## Wine Spectator

**93PTS** 2005 *Black Kite Cellars "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir*

"Smooth, rich and polished with a pretty array of loamy blackberry, plum and wildberry flavors."

**91PTS** 2005 *Black Kite Cellars Anderson Valley Pinot Noir*

"Richly flavored, with pure plum, blackberry and wild berry flavors."

## WINE ENTHUSIAST

**91PTS** 2005 *Black Kite Cellars "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir*

"Tastes beautifully ripe and supple, with complex fruit, spice and oak flavors that are supported by an intricate acid tannin structure. A terrific wine."

**91PTS** 2005 *Black Kite Cellars "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir*

"The biggest of the winery's three '05's... in its voluptuousness and rich mouthfeel."

## PINOTREPORT

PASSIONATE ABOUT WESTERN PINOT NOIR

**"THE STYLE IS DEEP AND COMPLEX WITH A GREAT CORE OF FRUIT"**

Black Kite Cellars is truly a family venture-three generations of the Green family are involved in the winery's day to day operations. Donald and Maureen Green moved to the Sonoma County in 1987. Donald had founded three telecommunications companies in the North Bay and was an avid ornithologist; Maureen a dedicated animal lover. They wanted to be a part of the agricultural lifestyle of the area. They purchased the 40-acre parcel in the Anderson Valley that would

become the Black Kite Vineyard in 1995. The land is in the "Deep End" area of the valley along the Navarro River near the town of Philo and had an old Gewurztraminer vineyard in the lower blocks down by the river. In 1999, The Greens replanted the vineyard to Pinot Noir and added two additional blocks up the hill from the river. The three blocks are Redwoods' Edge at the top of the property, Stony Terrace in the middle and River Turn along the river. Donald and Maureen's two daughters, Rebecca Green Birdsall and Victoria Green Comfort, and grandson Michael Green are also involved in Black Kite. Rebecca oversees all winery operations including working with winemaker Jeff Gaffner (his family's label is Saxon Brown). Pinot bottlings-Redwoods' Edge and Stony Terrace. The style is deep and complex with a great core of fruit. Oh, and the name-Black Kite Cellars- comes from one of birder Donald Green's favorite birds now known as the White Tailed Kite. This mostly white falcon-shaped raptor used to be known as the Black Shouldered Kite. The Greens got creative, shortened the name and changed the bird on the label to an all black and a brand was born.



**Black Kite Cellars: The Vineyards Speak...and the Pinot Noir Sings** "The three blocks ripen with such individual character that (winemaker) Gaffner made four wines from the 2006 vintage: one each from the three blocks and one blend of all three. Production volumes are small, but these are wines worth seeking out".

*2005 Black Kite Cellars "Stony Terrace" Pinot Noir*

"The plum and cherry flavors in this wine are just beautiful, like the Mona Lisa is beautiful - you don't want to tear yourself away from the sensation."

*2005 Black Kite Cellars "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir*

"The wine has beautiful body and good weight. When I close my eyes, I can almost smell the evergreens. Or perhaps that's just the cool dark sweetness of the wine activating my memories of the site itself."

*2005 Black Kite Cellars Anderson Valley Pinot Noir*

"This wine goes beyond interplay to find intense harmony. Winemaker Jeff Gaffner also polished the tannins well, giving this powerful young red some finesse to go along with its cool, dense core of sweetness that runs deep into the finish."

## WINE NEWS

### TOP 10 PINOT NOIRS 2007

**93PTS** 2005 *Black Kite Cellars "Redwoods' Edge" Pinot Noir*  
One of two block selections from the winery's vineyard in the cool Deep End of the valley, this stunning wine offers aromas of red currant-sour cherry fruit, dried lavender and a hint of red meat. Big, bold and full bodied with medium-full tannins and copious, ripe, concentrated, deep flavors of dark fruit mingled with meaty notes.



**91PTS** 2005 *Black Kite Cellars Anderson Valley Pinot Noir*

