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San Francisco Chronicle



TOP 100 WINES 2011

2009 Alta Maria Vineyards Santa Maria Valley Pinot Noir (\$28, 13.9% alcohol):

Paul Wilkins and James Ontiveros, two past Winemakers to Watch, are again fine-tuning this affordable blend using their detailed knowledge of Santa Maria vineyards. Aged in mostly neutral oak, it opens to show cranberry and ponzu amid a warm loamy earth tone. Juicy red fruit defines the core of its impressive flavors.

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