

# ROAD 31 WINE CO.

*grin-inducing pinot*

Dear Truckers (Spring 2026 release):

Greetings from Napa, where the truck is green, so are the hills, the mustard is yellow, and the multicolor Olympic rings still seem to float in the air. Oh, and I have killer wine to offer.

Before we get to the wine, let's take a quick moment to thank the Italians for delivering a gem of an international sporting spectacle last month. Not only did an American downhiller named Breezy (from my beloved Jackson Hole!) win both a gold medal and an engagement ring in the shadow of the Dolomites, but those shifty Canadians were called out for cheating in curling (?). There's that whole gonad-injecting ski jumping thing (that I still don't understand ... but I have decided that I really don't want it explained to me). And we should all simply bow to the born-with-skis-on Norwegians, who not only sprinted uphill on cross-country skis (Google it) to clean up in the medal count, but they had that one bloke who felt the medal podium was a perfect perch from which to proclaim to the world that he'd cheated on his girlfriend. The Italians—as would be expected—know how to throw a spicy Olympic party.

Let's also dedicate a moment here to the indomitable Linsey Vonn. Man, oh man ("woman, oh woman?")—every aging athlete on the planet was cheering for her (and her titanium knee) from the couch. And now we all wonder—from the couch—if she flew too close to the sun. Godspeed on your recovery.

Speaking of the sun, it has been a little shy around here recently. Which is perfect. Plenty of rain has fallen this winter and spring, keeping up a three-year streak of soil replenishment. And that precipitation report helps frame the glorious Pinot Noir that I offer to you now.

In 2024, we had what would be—in any other year—a slightly worrisome amount of heat during the growing season. But that was mitigated by healthy canopies from multiple years of copious winter rainfall. The fruit easily soaked up all that sun to create rich, robust, balanced and precise wines. It's not just me: all my Napa brethren are giddy. This is a classic vintage from the valley.

The 2024 Road 31 Napa Valley Carneros Pinot Noir is an intense shade of dark red, with flashes of deep purple depending on how the light hits it. The nose shows classic, dark, brooding fruit—blueberry and blackberry—with a fun hint of cherry cola. It also carries an elegant, high-toned note of fine dark chocolate. The mouth has both depth and liveliness, weight and acidity, along with a little zip. Then comes the super long finish, slightly hot (just hot enough), with echoes of all those fruits from the aroma plus a seductive vanilla note. I anticipate this being a very long-lived wine in the spirit of my 2002, 2009, and 2019—all of which are still drinking exquisitely.

The order window is now open and will remain so through April 5. While I try to allocate carefully, it's ultimately first-come, first-served. So don't dally. I still cover shipping on a case (12 bottles) or more. Orders in by Thursday will generally ship the following Monday, unless requested otherwise.

In the spicy spirit of these Olympics, I'll leave you with one of my favorite (and colorful) Norwegian toasts: "Vi skåler for våre venner og alle vi kjenner, og de som vi ikke kjenner, de driter vi i." I'll let you look that up.

Kent Fortner (Winecrafter/Truck-Owner/King of the Road)



NAPA VALLEY

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