

**Foxen Winery and Vineyard****2005 Pinot Noir  
(Santa Maria Valley)**

The Foxen boys have been working on Pinot Noir for so long, over twenty years now from their rustic barn of a winery in the heart of Santa Maria Valley, that it's become second nature to them. But they don't take their Pinot success for granted and when the 2005 vintage cooperated, they turned out something special for their entry level bottling.

Dark cherry and plum aromatics are the hallmark of this Pinot from the Pommard clone (and, our little secret: all from [Bien Nacido Vineyard](#)). The appealing flavors of ripe dark cherries are backed up with a sense of earthiness. A big wine, but very balanced with a finely honed cut of acidity. Wild cherry (think Smith Bros. cough drops) also breaks through, hits the sweet spot on mid palate and then finishes elegant and tasty. A wine I'd be happy to drink every night at my dining table.

Reviewed May 17, 2007 by [Dennis Schaefer](#).

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**THE WINE**

**Winery:** [Foxen Winery and Vineyard](#)

**Vintage:** 2005

**Wine:** Pinot Noir

**Appellation:** [Santa Maria Valley](#)

**Grape:** [Pinot Noir](#)

**Price:** \$32.00

**THE REVIEWER****Dennis Schaefer**

Dennis Schaefer has been tasting and writing about wine for over 30 years, propelled by a continuing curiosity and burgeoning enthusiasm for discovering what's in the bottle. Blessed with catholic tastes, he enjoys everything from the obvious to the sublime. A

major requirement is that the vineyard, winery and winemaker consistently perform well and fulfill their potential. Balance, concentration and complexity are key to the tasting experience but, in the end, the purpose of wine is simply to give pleasure.