

The Real Review

Stephen Wong

Monte Christo Winery Rosé Pinot Noir 2024

92/100

Bright hot pink. The muted nose and palate are currently very young with firm phenolic structure and taut acidity dominating the weighty, serious, dry palate. Under this architecture is a late-blooming core of mid-weight cherry and baking spice flavours which emerge with air before going back into hiding on the chalky, austere finish.

Monte Christo Winery Pinot Gris 2024

92/100

Delicately aromatic wine with pear, quince, ripe apple, and citrus flavours supported by gentle fruity acidity and fine, peppery phenolics. Nice purity and energy with a lengthy finish.

Monte Christo Winery Riesling 2024

93/100

A subtle but mellow nose of ripe, honeyed stone-fruit introduces a vibrant and energetic palate where the subtle nectarine flavours give way to concentrated pithy citrus and austere chalkiness. Dry, linear and driven, there is an excellent through-line here carrying the limey freshness through the minerality. Currently tightly wound, the coiled power will unfurl with time in the cellar. A dry Riesling with restraint and dimension.

Monte Christo Winery Chardonnay 2023

94/100

Restrained, zingy nose of citrus, bergamot, aromatic herbs and beeswax preface a mid-weight but compact palate with good density and youthful austerity. The flavours reprise here, building towards a deceptively long finish where pithy phenolics lengthen the mineral nuances towards the back. Quietly accomplished and built for ageing.

Monte Christo Winery Pinot Noir 2023

92/100

Dark-fruited with spice bazaar aromas, this serious, muscular pinot spans the black cherry to plum spectrum with woody tannins which arrive early on the front-palate. Quite drying at this young stage, it needs time to integrate and absorb the oak. The mid-weight flavours are persistent and hint at licorice root and nutmeg complexity in time.

Monte Christo Winery Pisa Pinot Noir 2023

92/100

Brooding and concentrated red fruit coulis with cherry, briar and rosehip under a thick cloud of dusty oak. The pure, sweet fruit on the palate sinks beneath firm, grippy oak and cocoa tannins as it expands to fill the mouth. Closed and angular at the moment, this is going to need a few years for the tannins and wood to absorb into the wine. The hope is that the pretty red fruit and floral core underneath will outlast its grip.