



Chat Sauvage



Johannisberg im Rheingau

James Suckling wrote on his homepage www.jamessuckling.com:

PINOT NOIR PAYDIRT

In Germany, Senior Editor Stuart Pigott made a great pinot noir discovery, although he had to taste a few bottles before he finally hit paydirt.

“On paper, warm and dry years like 2020 should be ideal for pinot noir in Germany, since those conditions push the vines to produce more tannins, and it’s tannins that give red wines their power and structure,” Stuart said about his tasting expedition. “So I expected a lot and was sometimes a bit disappointed.”

Then he visited the Chat Sauvage winery in Johannisberg, in Germany’s Rheingau wine region: “When winemaker Verena Schöttle arrived in 2016 she was an unknown figure, but she quickly pulled this eccentric winery onto the right track. However, the 2020 vintage wines are something else – really awesome!”

Chat Sauvage is eccentric, because in a region dominated by riesling it is focused on pinot noir, with chardonnay as second string. “And, when it was founded in 2000 by Hamburg businessman Günter Schulz, he gave it a French name that means ‘wild cat.’ For the extremely traditional Rheingau, it was totally surreal,” Stuart said.

Stuart found nothing wild about the 2020 pinot noirs except their astonishing quality. “They all have stunning concentration and are incredibly expressive with a wonderful freshness,” he said. “Think premier and grand cru Burgundy from a vintage with healthy acidity, like 2010 or 2016, then you are close.”

None fit this description better than the near-perfect [Chat Sauvage Pinot Noir Rheingau Lorch Schlossberg 2020](#), which pushes the envelope of this style all the way and is extremely complex. “It may well be the German red wine of this vintage,” Stuart enthused.

How did Schöttle achieve such greatness? “We always worked with very low yields and we do a lot of hand work in the vineyard. We are very exact,” she told Stuart.



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Neueste Bewertungen von James Suckling (Verkoster Stuart Pigott)

Chat Sauvage Pinot Noir Rheingau Lorch Schlossberg 2020

Score: 99 Points

21 Nov, 2022 – Incredibly expressive nose with an extremely wide spectrum of red fruit aromas plus hints of bonfire smoke and Venezuelan bitter chocolate. Mind-blowing concentration and finesse that pushes the envelope all the way. Such delicacy and precision at the unbelievably long and pristine mineral finish.

Chat Sauvage Pinot Noir Rheingau Le Schulz 2020

Score: 98 Points

21 Nov, 2022 – The deep rooty nose with stacks of spice and smoke pulls you into this mouth-filling pinot noir that's so concentrated and refined, but still quite closed. The serious fine tannins and creamy richness give this massive foundations, but it doesn't feel in the least monumental. Super-long, silky finish. Excellent aging potential. Vegan. Drinkable now, but best from 2025.

Chat Sauvage Pinot Noir Rheingau Johannisberg Hölle 2020

Score: 97 Points

21 Nov, 2022 – Breathtaking nose of forest berries with hints of blood orange, savory, allspice and bitter chocolate. Very concentrated and focused with wonderful vitality and crisp tannins, this is a really great Rheingau pinot noir. Very long, stony finish with subtle cocoa powder and allspice character. Excellent aging potential!

Chat Sauvage Pinot Noir Rheingau Rüdesheim Drachenstein 2020

Score: 96 Points

21 Nov, 2022 – Stunning nose of beautifully ripe sour cherries with savory notes, wet earth and allspice. Very concentrated with ample extremely fine tannins, this is still quite tightly wound, the power and ripeness beautifully underplayed. Flows extremely gracefully over the palate. Wonderfully velvety texture at the very long and precise finish



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Chat Sauvage Pinot Noir Rheingau Lorcher Kapellenberg 2020

Score: 95 Points

21 Nov, 2022 – Fragrant and finely-nuanced nose of sour cherries, blackberries and summer flowers with delicate and spicy oak. Concentrated and succulent, but also wonderfully fresh and bright, this is a good argument for the vineyards of Lorch having as much potential for pinot noir as riesling. Very long, silky finish. Vegan. Drink or hold.

Chat Sauvage Pinot Noir Rheingau Lorch 2020

Score: 95 Points

21 Nov, 2022 – What an amazing village wine! A cornucopia of forest berry and sour cherry aromas with plenty of spice, plus touches of savory and bitter chocolate. Concentrated and expansive, the ripe acidity and generous fine-grained tannins interlock very neatly on the generous palate. Long, polished finish.

Chat Sauvage Pinot Noir Rheingau Assmannshausen Höllenberg 2020

Score: 93 Points

21 Nov, 2022 – Ripe blackcurrants and black cherries with a hint of cherry cake in the nose. Impressive depth and complexity, but the tannins that form the wine's dense core are slightly monolithic. Long, firm and spicy finish. Should gain in harmony with a bit more bottle age.