

**Santa Cruz Mountain Vineyard****2005 Pinot Noir, *Branciforte Creek Vineyard*
(Santa Cruz Mountains)**

This wine has put Jeff Emery back into the stratosphere. It is a wine that is eminently drinkable and loveable. Hard to even imagine it comes from the house of earth, mushrooms and celibacy – oh, ok, postponed gratification. This is an elixir meant to be loved right now, although it can certainly take a nap in your lovely cedar wine cabinet for a few years or so. This wine wants to dance in your mouth, swirling every color of scarf in the wind and turning the perfect pirouette, over and over again. The aromas are so earthy, with that hint of mushroom that Jeff so loves, plus lovely blackberries and strawberries. It's so classic Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot – gorgeous, fleshy, yet high strung.

The Branciforte Creek vineyard was planted around 1988. Jeff and Ken made their first crop in 1991 under their original label. It then went to David Bruce in a vine-tending-for-grapes contract through the 2002 vintage. In 2003, Jeff regained control of the vineyard, which is located on Jarvis Road, only a mile away from the old Estate Vineyard. At one time in history, it was part of the same Jarvis Brother's Vineyard originally planted in 1863.

Indeed, this Pinot Noir extends itself into the rafters, as far as Jeff's winemaking is concerned, and yet it is seriously grounded in the historically significant winemaking style that Jeff has developed over his two decades with Ken. A wonderful effort and well rewarded.

Reviewed February 12, 2008 by [Laura Ness](#).

THE WINE

Winery: [Santa Cruz Mountain Vineyard](#)

Vineyard: Branciforte Creek Vineyard

Vintage: 2005

Wine: Pinot Noir

Appellation: [Santa Cruz Mountains](#)

Grape: Pinot Noir

Price: \$32.00

THE REVIEWER**Laura Ness**

A wine writer and wine judge for major publications and competitions around the country, Laura Ness likens wine to the experience of music. She is always looking for that ubiquitous marriage of rhythm, melody, and flawless

execution. What is good music? You know it when you get lost in it. What is good wine? It is music in your mouth.