

**Summerhill Pyramid Winery****NV Pinot Noir Brut  
(Okanagan Valley)**

Summerhill winemaker Eric von Krosigk, an evangelizer for sparkling wine, will expound on its virtues at any opportunity. "Bubbly should never satiate the palate," he maintains. "It should animate you to the next sip." The winery's Pinot Noir Brut makes the case for him. This dark pink bubbly is one of those sneaky wines where the bottle empties too soon.

The explanation is the flavour. The winemaker set out to "capture the pure essence of the grape." That involved using less yeast, to limit, if not eliminate, the yeast autolysis flavours in the wine. This wine, with a very active and festive play of bubbles, delivers mouth-filling flavours of strawberry. The fruit is lifted by a dash of sweetness – the winemaker added two grams of residual sugar to balance the acidity and turbo-charge the fruit flavours. The wine is so well balanced, however, that the finish is dry, with clean, lingering fruitiness.

In its notes, Summerhill describes the wine as a "twist on the classic dry summertime rosé." I would suggest that this is also a deliciously festive holiday season apéritif and a suitably romantic wine for Valentine's Day. 89 points.

Reviewed December 20, 2007 by [John Schreiner](#).

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**THE WINE**

**Winery:** [Summerhill Pyramid Winery](#)

**Vintage:** NV

**Wine:** Pinot Noir Brut

**Appellation:** [Okanagan Valley](#)

**Grape:** Pinot Noir

**Price:** \$28.95

**THE REVIEWER****John Schreiner**

John Schreiner has been covering the wines of British Columbia for the past 30 years and has written 10 books on the wines of Canada and BC. He has judged at major competitions and is currently a panel member for the Lieutenant Governor's Awards of

Excellence in Wine. Both as a judge and as a wine critic, he approaches each wine not to find fault, but to find excellence. That he now finds the latter more often than the former testifies to the dramatic improvement shown by BC winemaking in the past decade.