

CUTTING EDGE SELECTIONS

✧HAND-CRAFTED WINES✧

Lolita Pinot Noir 2005 – Vin de Pays D'Oc, France



I'm not sure why a Pinot Noir grown in the south of France was christened Lolita? Now, I love Nabokov as much as the next literary dilettante, but wouldn't "Manon" [of the Spring] be a little more fitting? Regardless, this is one fascinating wine and a welcome addition to the \$14.99 price point. At first sniff, it seemed to show a little bit of everything *red* on the nose, offering a vinous, almost grapey-ness akin to Cabernet. However, this was quickly replaced by an honest burst of red fruit, revealing its provenance, the south of France. Trying both to crack the code and admittedly "drink" a little more of this curious yet compelling little wine, I sipped on. With each mouthful, I grasped for some point of reference, but could never quite get my bearings. For a moment I would think to myself: "Syrah?... yes... I definitely taste Syrah," but then something else would emerge. "*Could it be Cinsault? Or maybe a little Grenache in there?*" I indulged the possibility of every red grape, except the one it's actually made from—Pinot Noir! Once informed of this (it's Pinot Noir) the wine made perfect sense. Pinot is an exacting *Terroirist*, known for accurately reflecting the site where it is grown. The Lolita is simply Pinot's very charming (and idiosyncratic) take on the South of France, and truth be told I liked it quite a bit.

Just as Spain has emerged supreme in the value category, with Argentina and Chile in hot pursuit, it is nice to know that France (my true wine love) still has a few tricks up her sleeve. The Lolita Pinot is an excellent, thoroughly fascinating, and must try red.

Top Germany Values

- 87 points 2007 Pfeffingen Riesling Dry (\$20.99 retail)
- 88 points 2007 Gunderloch Riesling Kabinett Jean-Baptiste (\$19.99 retail)

Top Spain Values

- 86 points 2007 Garnacha De Fuego (\$8.99 retail)
- 87 points 2007 Borsao (\$7.99 retail)
- 89 points 2006 Borsao Crianza (\$13.99 retail)
- 88 points 2007 Monte Oton (\$8.99 retail)
- 87 points 2007 Borsao Rose (\$8.99 retail)
- 91 points 2006 Tres Picos (\$15.99 retail)
- 85 points 2007 Vina Borgia (\$6.99 retail)
- 90+ points 2007 Can Blau (\$17.99 retail)
- 90 points 2007 Casa Castillo (\$12.99 retail)
- 91 points 2007 Venta Mazzarron (\$15.99 retail)
- 84 points 2006 Codice (\$10.99 retail)
- 91 points 2006 Juan Gil (\$16.99 retail)
- 87 points 2007 Wrongo Dongo (\$8.99 retail)
- 90 points 2007 Vina Godeval (\$18.99 retail)
- 91 points 2005 Llopart Brut Rose (\$21.99 retail)
- 90 points 2006 Altos De Luzon (\$19.99 retail)
- 88 points 2007 Luzon (\$8.99 retail)
- 89 points 2007 Muga Blanco (\$14.99 retail)
- 88 points 2007 Muga Rose (\$15.99 retail)
- 89 points 2007 Onix (\$16.99 retail)
- 86 points 2007 Paso A Paso Verdejo (\$9.99 retail)
- 89+ points 2007 Paso A Paso Tinto (\$9.99 retail)
- 86 points 2007 Protocolo Blanco (\$7.99 retail)
- 86 points 2007 Protocolo Tinto (\$7.99 retail)
- 89 points 2005 Sierra Cantabria Crianza (\$19.99 retail)
- 89 points 2005 Solabal Crianza (\$17.99 retail)
- 89 points 2007 Txomin Etxaniz Txakoli (\$24.99 retail)
- 87 points 2006 Vega Sindoa Cabernet-Tempranillo (\$13.99 retail)
- 89 points 2007 Vega Sindoa Chardonnay (\$14.99 retail)
- 85 points 2007 Vega Sindoa Tempranillo-Merlot (\$9.99 retail)
- 88+ points 2006 Volver Tinto (\$17.99 retail)

Top Australia Values

- 87 points 2007 D'Arenberg Stump Jump White (\$11.99 retail)
- 88 points 2007 D'Arenberg Stump Jump Red (\$11.99 retail)
- 89 points 2006 D'Arenberg Custodian Grenache (\$18.99 retail)
- 89 points 2006 D'Arenberg Love Grass Shiraz (\$18.99 retail)
- 88 points 2006 D'Arenberg High Trellis Cabernet (\$18.99 retail)

Top Australia Values

- 89 points 2007 D'Arenberg Olive Grove Chardonnay (\$15.99 retail)
- 90 points 2007 D'Arenberg Hermit Crab Viognier/Marsanne (\$15.99 retail)
- 90 points 2007 D'Arenberg Last Ditch Viognier (\$27.99 retail)
- 92 points NV Chambers Rosewood Vineyards Muscadelle 375ML (\$16.99 retail)
- 93 points NV Chambers Rosewood Vineyards Muscat 375ML (\$16.99 retail)
- 90 points 2006 Fetish Playmates (\$23.99 retail)
- 90 points 2006 Fetish The Watcher Shiraz (\$23.99 retail)
- 90 points 2006 Penley Estate Cabernet Phoenix (\$19.99 retail)
- 86 points 2007 Shoofly Aussie Salute (\$10.99 retail)
- 87 points 2007 Shoofly Buzz Cut White (\$10.99 retail)
- 89 points 2006 Shoofly Shiraz (\$10.99 retail)

Top California Values

- 87 points 2006 Cartlidge & Browne Chardonnay (\$12.99 retail)
- 85 points 2005 Cartlidge & Browne Cabernet (\$12.99 retail)
- 82 points 2005 Cartlidge & Browne Merlot (\$12.99 retail)
- 87 points 2006 Cartlidge & Browne Pinot Noir (\$16.99 retail)
- 86 points 2005 Cartlidge & Browne Rabid Red (\$15.99 retail)
- 89 points 2006 Cartlidge & Browne Sauvignon Blanc D.C. (\$12.99 retail)

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Smart Buys

- 90 points 2006 Fetish Playmates (\$23.99 retail)
- 90 points 2006 Fetish The Watcher Shiraz (\$23.99 retail)

Top Australia Value

- 90 points 2006 Penley Estate Cabernet Phoenix (\$19.99 retail)

Recommended

- 89 points 2006 Naia Verdejo (\$15.99 retail)
- 89 points 2006 Penley Estate Shiraz Hyland (\$19.99 retail)
- 92 points 2006 John Duval Shiraz Entity (\$44.99 retail)
- 91 points 2006 Innocent Bystander Shiraz/Viognier (\$21.99 retail)
- 90 points 2007 Innocent Bystander Pinot Noir (\$18.99 retail)
- 92 points 2006 Gerard Bertrand L'Hospitalitas (\$73.99 retail)
- 89 points 2006 Gerard Bertrand Corbieres (\$16.99 retail)
- 88 points 2005 Gerard Bertrand Tautavel (\$19.99 retail)
- 88 points 2005 Gerard Bertrand Minervois (\$16.99 retail)