

San Francisco Chronicle

Jon Bonne

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Roederer Estate
L'Ermitage 1999

3 and 1/2 Stars

"Roederer's top-level American wine, with 55 percent Chardonnay and the rest Pinot Noir, more than holds its own with its French cousins. Scents of gray flint dominate amid the dough and yeasty fruit. Its has sharp oxidative notes (the dosage wine was aged 9 years in oak casks) and it's vibrantly, almost alarmingly, tangy. The sharpness lingers, with a compelling mix of red fruit, mushrooms and sherry."