



(...) Stuart also attended a "remarkable" vertical tasting of pinot noirs from Solveigs, an under-the-radar producer from the Rheingau region of Germany, where owner/winemaker Jens Heinemeyer is making his mark. The vertical, of almost every vintage since 1995, highlighted the wines' "extraordinary stylistic homogeneity," with each offering "self-confidently dry with a pronounced stony minerality," Stuart said.

But 2020 is the best ever vintage for Solveigs, Stuart said, with the spectacularly floral and super-focused Solveigs Pinot Noir Rheingau Present 2020 pushing this unique style to the limit ("Present" being the name of the vineyard plot where Solveigs' top pinot noir grows.) And the Solveigs Pinot Noir Rheingau Present 1998, with its exciting interplay of crunchy tannins, mineral acidity, sour cherry fruit and savory complexity, "shows how long-living these idiosyncratic beauties are."



JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU STEIL 2021

Elegant and slatey, with delicate floral and red berry aromas, this barely medium-bodied pinot noir has lovely silkiness for the quite challenging 2021 vintage. Excellent balance in the long finish, where there's a lovely interplay of fruit, fine tannins and savory character. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU MICKE 2021

This excellent Rheingau pinot noir has a wealth of red berry and cassis aromas, but also impressive fine tannins on the velvety, medium-bodied palate. The delicate touch of perceived sweetness in the long finish pulls you back for more. Delicate spices at the very end. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 2021

Still tightly wound, this is a very concentrated yet sleek and focused pinot noir. At the moment the floral character is more pronounced than the sour cherry aromas, but this is due to the wine's youth. So silky and expressive in the very long, pure finish. From organically grown grapes. Drinkable now, but best from 2026.



JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU STEIL 2020

Extremely bright and energetic, this is a very vibrant expression of the ripe 2020 vintage. Brimming with slatey minerality on the sleek, medium-bodied palate. So fresh in the silky finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

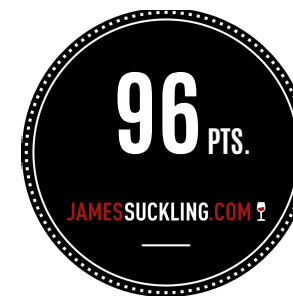
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SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU MICKE 2020

The red currant and blackcurrant aromas of this very juicy young Rheingau pinot noir leap out at you. Quite serious tannins on the linear, compact, concentrated, medium-bodied palate. Long, driving finish with plenty of wet-stone minerality. It needs some time to open up, but it's already an exciting and very expressive wine. From organically grown grapes. Drinkable now, but best from 2026.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 2020

Explosively floral and energetic, this unique German pinot noir leaps and bounds over your palate. Very concentrated on the super-focused, medium-bodied palate, this has racy freshness in the long, driving finish, where there's an explosion of wet-stone minerality. From organically grown grapes. Drinkable now, but best from 2026.



JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU STEIL 2019

The interplay of restrained ripeness and a deftly crafted structure with forest floor and moss character makes this a very attractive, medium-bodied German pinot noir. Well integrated, with quite crisp acidity and velvety tannins in the long finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

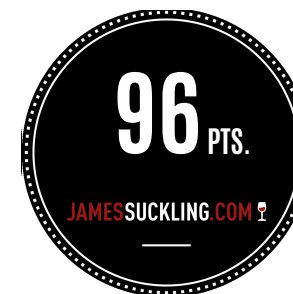
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SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 2019

A beautiful, maturing Rheingau pinot noir with a wide spectrum of red berry, cassis and red rose petal aromas plus a delicate touch of forest floor. Impressive substance and velvety tannins are married to great maturing fruit, the tannins and slatey minerality driving the very long, quite imposing finish. Should age very well. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 2018

Radical and inspiring, this super-concentrated Rheingau pinot noir is also super-elegant, with so much mineral freshness that it takes your breath away. And behind all the enticing red-fruit character is earthy depth that gives the very long, straight finish both drive and fascination. No perceptible oak! From organically grown grapes. Unfiltered. Drink or hold.



JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PHYLLIT 2017

This is now wonderfully mature on the nose, with red currant jelly and savory dried thyme, but on the barely medium-bodied palate it is still quite tannic and firm. You could easily mistake this for a cool-climate red Burgundy. Powerful if not terribly complex dry finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU MICKE 2016

Cool and savory with a wealth of dried herb aromas, this Rheingau pinot noir has stacks of character. At the front and the middle of this barely medium-bodied wine, the perceived sweetness balances the acidity and tannins nicely, but they are slightly sharp in the finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink now.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU MICKE 2015

This is complex, with deep savory and dry forest floor aromas and a touch of meat extract. This powerful and well-structured pinot noir is more youthful on the medium- to full-bodied palate than on the nose. A very long, compact, velvety finish with fascinating complexity. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.



JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PHYLLIT 2014

For a completely forgotten vintage with serious rot problems, this is a remarkable wine. Sleek and crisp, with plenty of life and maturing red currant fruit. Restrained tannins, but they provide a solid enough base. Long, harmonious, moderately dry finish. From a magnum. From organically grown grapes. Drink now.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 2013

A good argument that this forgotten vintage was actually a good one for pinot noir in Germany. Sleek and barely medium-bodied, but with a healthy structure and surprising vitality. Lots of forest floor and moss aromas plus a touch of savory, but also a core of red currant and sour cherry fruit. Long, slaty finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 2012

Brimming with red currant fruit, this is still very lively at 12 years of age. The red currant and raspberry fruit are married to a restrained tannin structure and lively acidity. Aromas of bark and wet earth develop. Long, crisp finish with a hint of red apple character. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.



JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU MICKE 2011

Serious velvety tannins are married to sweet black cherry and blackcurrant fruit on the compact, focused, medium-bodied palate. Good concentration, plus plenty of drive and energy for its age. Still many years of life ahead of it. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 2009

This unique German pinot noir is full-bodied and very meaty, with an impressive structure that deftly carries the ample ripeness of the vintage. Absolutely no hint of the sweetness that often marked these wines. Instead bold, emphatically dry tannins dominate the long, expansive finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PHYLLIT 2008

A touch of green apple aroma marks this as a wine from one of the last really challenging vintages for pinot noir in Germany. Sleek and crisp on the barely medium-bodied palate. There are some healthy tannins in the finish. With aeration the red berry fruit expands. From organically grown grapes. Drink now.



JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU STEIL 2007

This Rheingau pinot noir has a fantastic balance of elegant, velvety tannins, mature red berry fruit and moderate acidity. It shows the finesse of a top Premier Cru Burgundy, with a lacy delicacy that's very enticing. From organically grown grapes. Drink now.

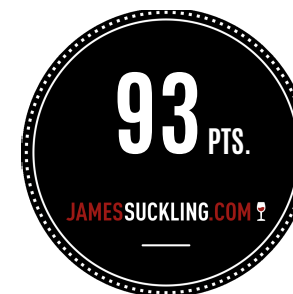
JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 2006

Very good cherry and ripe cranberry aromas for close to 20 years old. Powerful on the medium- to full-bodied palate, with excellent energy and lively acidity. So much drive in the compact and crisp finish that it makes you feel glad to be alive. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU STEIL 2004

Very savory with plenty of cassis fruit, this pinot noir has a compact and emphatically dry balance. Nice tannin structure and good fruit, also good length, but not that complex. Some may find this a bit dry, but for me it works well. From a magnum. Drink or hold.



JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 2003

Rich and succulent, as you would expect from this very warm vintage, but there's also an excellent tannin structure on the medium- to full-bodied palate. A surprisingly crisp and bright finish that has excellent balance. Tasted from a magnum. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PHYLLIT 2002

Lots of dry forest floor character is married to moderately dry tannins and mature red berry fruit on the medium-bodied palate. Very good harmony if not enormous concentration, and the finish is long and polished. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU STEIL 2001

Here is proof that more than 20 years ago the Rheingau was producing some serious red wines. Already the savory, malt and meat extract on the nose make quite a statement. Well structured, with elegant, moderately dry tannins, this may be at the lower end of the medium-bodied range, but it has good concentration and a long, compact finish. Drink or hold.



JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 1999

This has plenty of depth and structure on the medium-bodied palate, but it doesn't sing. Intense leathery character. Not so tannic, but it feels pretty dry and a bit one-sided. Too smoky. From a magnum. Drink now.

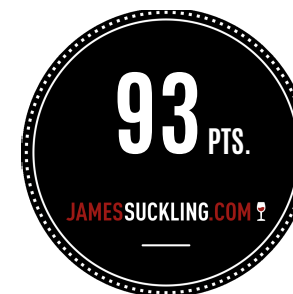
JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 1998

Surprisingly lively for a wine from the period when German red wine producers were learning to walk again, but that's just the beginning. I love the interplay of crunchy tannins, mineral acidity and sour cherry fruit. Great energy and wonderful savory complexity. Very long, structured finish. Drink or hold.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU PRESENT 1997

A very serious wine for this period of German red wine production, with tannins that remind me of Bordeaux wines of the period. So much energy on the compact, medium-bodied palate. Long, emphatically dry finish. Tasted from a magnum. Drink or hold.



JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



**SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR
RHEINGAU STEIL 1996**

Fully mature red berry and currant aromas. At once crisp and juicy on the medium-bodied palate. Some nice tannins in the crisp finish. Drink now.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 



**SOLVEIGS PINOT NOIR
RHEINGAU PRESENT 1995**

What a beautiful, mature pinot noir. So elegant and silky on the medium-bodied palate. Very fine tannins for this period in the history of German pinot noir. A long and silky finish that pulls you back for more. The first vintage from this producer. Drink or hold.