

Two Bargains from Trader Joe

We occasionally buy some wine at **Trader Joe's**. But we recently discovered two that are **amazing bargains**. Each is **\$7.99 per bottle**. You will not find better deals on wine anywhere. This is the story of two bargains from Trader Joe.



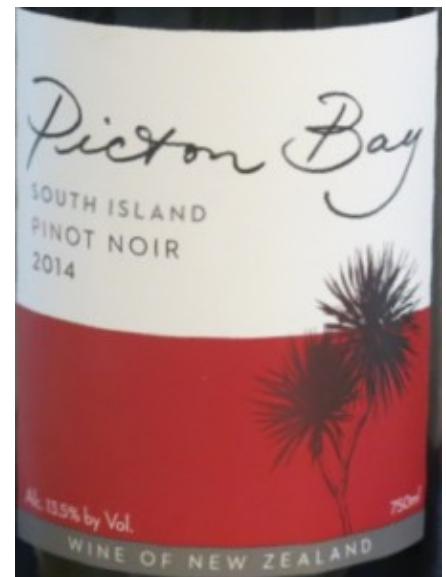
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Over the years Norma has become fond of their “**Trader Moon**” **Honey Moon viognier**. The **2013 vintage** is so outstanding we had to write about it. Quite simply, this is the best viognier I have ever tasted. Norma is not quite that enthusiastic, settling for “pretty darn good.”

Here’s the scoop: **floral and honeysuckle aromas** followed by **passion fruit** and an **amazing orange blossom flavor**. There’s a **hint of lime on the finish**. Viognier, like pinot noir, is very susceptible to **terroir and winemaking technique**. We find most of them overbearing with too much of the natural honey. Not this one.

And a few days ago I brought home a couple of experimental bottles of pinot noir. We’ve only tasted one – and Norma sent

me back the next day to pick up a case. The wine is from **New Zealand**. The **Picton Bay South Island 2014 pinot noir** is light enough to be a summer wine. Aromas of red raspberries and cherries are followed by more raspberries, tart cherries, and a hint of spice. Light enough to support what might otherwise be excessive acidity.



(click for larger image)

According to [Wine Searcher](#), **Picton Bay is the export label for the highly regarded [Mt. Riley winery in Marlborough](#)**. It looks to me like this label was created specifically for the U.S. market and (perhaps) exclusively for Trader Joe's.

Trader Joe's generally gives store managers considerable latitude in choosing non-TJ's wines. **You can probably find the Honey Moon almost everywhere**. I know the **Picton Bay is available at the Trader Joe's on Homestead Road in Los Altos, CA**.