

# Wines of the Finger Lakes



## Featured Selection

### HEART & HANDS 2009 PINOT NOIR

In his excellent October 11, 2011, article on Finger Lakes wines, *New York Times* wine writer Eric Asimov concluded with a list of the region's best producers. Interestingly, his selections included several wineries that are less than a decade old. The newest, Heart & Hands Wine Company, was founded in 2006 by Tom and Sue Higgins.

Tom, a Finger Lakes native, worked for Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards during his high school years. His passion for wine eventually took him to France and then to California's Calera Wine Company, where he worked for the respected Pinot Noir specialist Josh Jensen. During this time, Susan, who has an MBA from NYU, drafted a business plan for the creation of their own winery.

After his stint at Calera, Tom returned to New York, where land was more affordable than in California. He began an exhaustive search to find a property that had soil laden with limestone, a



key variable in the production of quality Pinot Noir. He finally found what he was looking for in Union Springs, on the east side of Cayuga Lake. Building commenced early in 2006 and was completed that same year. Heart & Hands wines, 90 percent of which are Pinot Noir, have thus far been produced from purchased grapes, but in 2010 the owners planted their own 3.5 acre vineyard. They'll make their first estate-grown wine from the 2012 vintage.

Meanwhile, they've already made some awfully nice wines. The Heart & Hands 2009 Pinot Noir was produced from grapes grown on Seneca, Cayuga, and Skaneateles Lakes. It's very well balanced and full of cherry-like fruit—a fine example of how good Finger Lakes Pinot Noir can be, even from a difficult vintage. It can be purchased for \$19.99 at [www.heartandhandswine.com](http://www.heartandhandswine.com).

— Dave Pohl

Dave Pohl, MA '79, is a wine buyer at Northside Wine & Spirits in Ithaca.

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