

# the wine trust

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## Paul Lato Background

**Owner:** Paul Lato

**Country:** United States / California

**Founded:** 2002

**Annual Production:** 4,500cs

**Description:** In 2002, Polish-born Paul Lato left a successful career as a sommelier to pursue his dream of becoming a winemaker. With help from a number of California's top winemakers, his initial production totaled just 500 cases. In the years since, Lato has cemented a reputation as one of California's top winemakers – his wines are routinely showered with exceptional critical ratings and sell-out via mailing list.

## Wine Notes – 2018 Paul Lato Seabiscuit Zotovich Vineyard Pinot Noir

Paul Lato's story is as exceptional as his wines. Born in Poland, Lato was a successful sommelier in Toronto but harbored a dream of becoming a winemaker. After stints working for Jim Clendenen (proprietor of California Pinot pioneer Au Bon Climat) and as a cellar-rat at Bien Nacido, Lato began making his own wines in 2002. Fast forward two decades, a chance meeting with Robert Parker and fortuitously-timed help from Thomas Keller and Paul Lato Winery is now widely considered one of California's top producers of Burgundian and Rhone varietals, with a trove of critical accolades. Seabiscuit Pinot Noir comes from the Zotovich Vineyard in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. Perhaps Lato's most graceful and delicate Pinot, this is bright and energetic beauty will improve for over a decade.

**JEB DUNNUCK** - 95+ Points

### Technical Specifications

<b>Varietal Composition:</b>	100% Pinot Noir
<b>Vineyard Region:</b>	Zotovich Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills
<b>Production Volume:</b>	320 cases
<b>Vineyard Characteristics:</b>	Certified sustainable, 15 yr old vines, diatomaceous earth and sandy loam, south/west facing gentle slope
<b>Wine-Making / Vinification:</b>	Hand-harvested 100% destemmed fruit 20-day fermentation in 2-ton stainless steel tanks using mix of native and select yeast, aged 6-10 months on primary lees, racked and returned to fine lees Aged 17 months in 69/31 new/neutral French oak, fined, 30ppm SO <sub>2</sub> , 4 months bottle age
<b>Alcohol / Volume:</b>	14.1%
<b>p/H:</b>	3.48
<b>Residual Sugar:</b>	0 g/L

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## JEB DUNNUCK

The 2018 Pinot Noir Seabiscuit Zotovich Vineyard, from the Sta. Rita Hills, saw a similar élevage and was all destemmed and brought up in 69% new French oak. Ruby/plum-colored, with a spicy, woody style in its red and black fruits, it has lots of cedary spice, flowery incense, and violet notes, medium to full body, a pure, balanced character, and a great finish. It's still relatively tight and focused and will benefit from another year in bottle. It should drink nicely through 2030.

**95+ Points**

### Prior Vintage Ratings for Seabiscuit Zotovich Pinot Noir

<u>Vintage</u>	<u>Jeb Dunnuck</u>	<u>Wine Advocate</u>	<u>Vinous</u>
2017	95 pts	94 pts (Brooks)	93 pts (Galloni)
2016	95 pts	94+ pts (Kelley)	93 pts (Galloni)
2015	97 pts	94 pts (Perotti-Brown)	92 pts (Galloni)
2014	95 pts	95 pts (Dunnuck)	90 pts (Galloni)
2013	97 pts	97 pts (Dunnuck)	91 pts (Galloni)
2012	96 pts	96 pts (Dunnuck)	92 pts (Galloni)