

Let's *Wine*
About it



PINOT GRIS

Pronunciation:
"Pee-no Gree"

Taste: Delicate citrus (lime water, orange zest) and pomaceous fruits (apple skin, pear sauce), white floral notes, and cheese rind (from lees usage)

Style: Light-Bodied White Wine

Description: Pinot Gris is a dry light-bodied white grape that is planted heavily in Italy, but also in France and Germany. Wines are light to middle-weight and easy drinking, often with some bitter flavor on the palate (bitter almond, quinine)

Food Pairing: Salad, delicate poached fish, light and mild cheeses

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In order to better serve our members, we need to receive any new info and changes regarding your status (i.e., change of address, new credit card number, etc.) by the 20th of each month.

PLEASE NOTIFY US BY CALLING (888) 646-5446, Ext. 13.

Any information received after the 20th of each month will not take effect until the following month. Change of address updates, for the upcoming shipment, called in after the 20th, may be subject to a special handling fee.

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PRIVATE RESERVE CLUB	PRICES EXPIRE 05/31/2023	REGULAR PRICE*	12-BOTTLE DISCOUNT PRICE*	6-BOTTLE DISCOUNT PRICE*
Bernardus 2021 Rosella's Chardonnay		\$50.00	\$37.50	\$40.00
Wrath 2019 115/667 Pinot Noir		\$35.00	\$26.25	\$28.00
Comanche Cellars 2020 Tempranillo		\$34.00	\$25.50	\$27.20
MARCH SELECTIONS	PRICES EXPIRE 05/31/2023			
Rocklin Ranch 2021 Pinot Noir		\$20.00	\$15.00	\$16.00
Bernardus 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir		\$30.00	\$22.50	\$24.00
Pacific Valley 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon		\$26.00	\$19.50	\$20.80
Line Shack 2019 Chardonnay		\$18.00	\$13.50	\$14.40
FEBRUARY SELECTIONS	PRICES EXPIRE 04/30/2023			
Aristotle 2020 Petite Sirah		\$18.00	\$13.50	\$14.40
Exposition NVV sparkling Wine		\$29.00	\$21.75	\$23.20
Fog & Light 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon		\$26.00	\$19.50	\$20.80
Equoia 2021 Sauvignon Blanc		\$15.00	\$11.25	\$12.00
JANUARY SELECTIONS	PRICES EXPIRE 03/31/2023			
Rocas Del Rio 2021 Carbonic Red		\$25.00	\$18.75	\$20.00
Noble Vines 2021 446 Chardonnay		\$16.00	\$12.00	\$12.80
Noble Vines 2020 667 Pinot Noir		\$18.00	\$13.50	\$14.40
Comanche 2021 Dog & Pony Albariño		\$30.00	\$22.50	\$24.00

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*PRICES LISTED REFLECT PRICE PER BOTTLE. NO OTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY.

SPRING 2023

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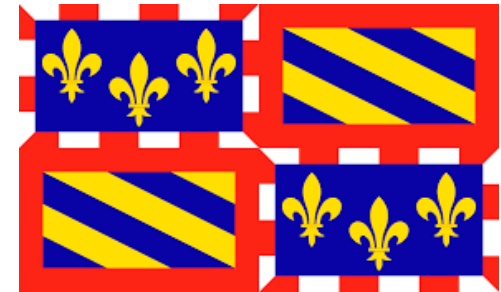
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BURGUNDY

A LEGACY OF COMPLEXITY AND QUALITY



Although we Monterey County aficionados easily equate Pinot Noir and Chardonnay with our own beloved vineyards, and rightly so, the origins of the two varietals lie in the Burgundy region of eastern France. "Bourgogne," in French, is considered by many to be second only to Bordeaux in quality reputation in France's numerous wine-growing regions and is arguably on an equal level.

Geographically, the Burgundy wine region is located in the valleys and slopes of the Saône River, a tributary of the Rhône River further south. Although sometimes disputed, the grander entire region extends from the Chablis-dominated area around Auxerre in the north down to the Beaujolais area near Lyon.

The heart of Burgundy, though, is known as the Côte d'Or, which is just twenty-five miles long, and at times, only a mile wide (Monterey's own Santa Lucia Highlands is somewhat similar). The Côte d'Or is divided into two parts, with the Côte de Nuits extending from south of Dijon to Corgoloin/Nuits-Saint-Georges, and the Côte de Beaune covering the area in between the towns of Ladoix and Dezize-les-Maranges.



The landscape of the Côte d'Or is comprised of small villages and towns surrounded by vineyards on a mix of flat and sloped vineyards on the eastern side of a solid line of hills. Beaune, Pommard, Meursault and Montrachet are wines most recognized from the Côte d'Or. The Côte d'Or is also where Burgundy's most expensive wines originate, and, therefore not surprisingly

where all of Burgundy's "Grand Cru" vineyards are located (one exception is the Chablis Grand Cru).

What's Grand Cru? Good question. Leave it to les Français to complicate things! You could find the terms Grand Cru or Premier Cru (or 1er Cru) on bottles from other regions in France, but they are most associated and used in Burgundy. The terms are intended to imply distinction to certain wines and basically refer to single vineyard-sourced wines from prestigious AOCs (the roughly equivalent French designation for AVAs). Having experienced hand-picking some of these steep vineyards, this author assures you they are indeed unique. Certain Grand Cru wines can even be sourced from single rows within individual vineyards...yeah, that's about as terroir as possible!

And, it's actually not uncommon in Burgundy for a particular vineyard to have multiple owners of rows. To explain how this came to be, we need to dive into history. The Gauls were most likely swilling vino during the time when the Roman Empire conquered them in 52 BC (the decisive battle of Alesia where a Julius Cesar-led army defeated Vercingetorix's forces is located in Burgundy).

However, it was monks in Burgundy's monasteries who took the region's wine to a new level, really getting things moving around 900 AD at the famed Abbey of Cluny. The Church con-

Continued Inside

Reserve Wine Selections

BERNARDUS - 2021 *Rosella's Chardonnay*



Vineyard: This gently sloping vineyard located in the heart of the Santa Lucia Highlands was planted by the renowned grower Gary Franscioni. A fourth-generation farmer, Gary and his lovely wife Rosella have planted one of the finest vineyards on the Central Coast. Gary's passion for growing only the finest fruit on his home vineyard has resulted in a huge following for his Rosella's Pinot Noir. Less widely known is his small block of excellent Dijon clone Chardonnay which produces some of the finest Chardonnay in the Highlands.

Winemaking: The Rosella's Vineyard Chardonnay is fermented and aged in the Burgundian tradition. The grapes are hand-picked before being gently whole-cluster pressed and fermented using a variety of specially selected yeasts. It then undergoes a complete malo-lactic fermentation to enhance richness and complexity. In addition, each barrel has been hand stirred every two weeks until shortly before blending and bottling.

Tasting Notes: The 2021 Rosella's Chardonnay exhibits beautiful fruit-forward aromas of ripe white fruits and baking spice. The palate is intense and beautifully structured showing flavors of ripe peach and tropical fruits accented by subtle notes of caramel which linger beautifully through its long, crisp finish.

Bernardus
2021
Rosella's Chardonnay
Alcohol
14.1%
AVA
Santa Lucia Highlands
Composition
100% Chardonnay
Aging Potential
6-8 years

WRATH -2019 115/667 *Pinot Noir*



Vineyard: The Estate San Saba Vineyard is set in a sheltered nook just below the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. The estate consists of 72 acres of which 67.75 are planted to Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah and Falanghina. This is a cool site with little rainfall and one of the longest growing seasons in the world. Their soils, Arroyo Gravelly Loam and Hanford Gravelly Sandy Loam, provide a low-vigor, well-draining, disease- and pest-free medium for their vines. They also impart a subtle mineral quality to their wines. To preserve their local ecosystem, they have worked with viticultural consultant Steve McIntyre to develop a CCVT certified sustainable farming program (SIP) tailored to their estate. In addition to protecting the local environment, they believe it allows

them to produce wines that are more authentic and specific to their terroir.

Winemaking: 60% clone 115 / 40% clone 667 Sourced from only estate grown grapes, vine yields are closely managed and average about 3.5 to 4 tons to the acre. Grapes are hand picked and hand sorted. Clones are kept in separate lots during fermentation and barrel aging. 20% of the lots were fermented using whole clusters to moderate acidity and add to the bouquet. Once fermented to dryness, lots are aged in an assortment of French oak barrels (25% new) from various tonnelleries (for added complexity). Wines are barrel aged for around 10 months before bottling. The bottled wine rested for another 12 months before release.

Tasting Notes: The 2019 Pinot Noir 115/667 has a distinctive spicy character that energizes the dark cherry and mineral tones in this bottling. Made in a fresh, lively and pure style with loads of character.

Wrath
2019
115/667 Pinot Noir
Alcohol
14.5%
AVA
Monterey
Composition
100% Pinot Noir
Aging Potential
6-8 years

COMANCHE CELLARS - 2020 *Tempranillo*



Winery: A long time ago, there was a boy named Michael who delivered his newspapers astride Comanche, his trusty steed. One day a stray dog adopted the pair, and Maverick as he became known, trotted faithfully alongside never missing a day. It is for these three merry musketeers who friendship will live forever that the Dog & Pony brand is named. Here's to forgotten varieties and the unforgettable pleasure they bring. Comanche Cellars is located on California's Monterey Peninsula and they take advantage of the wealth of vineyards in their incredible region. They have created long-standing relationships with local vineyard owners to source some of the finest fruit in California.

Vineyard: Pierce Ranch Vineyards is a small, family-owned operation centered in southern Monterey County's San Antonio Valley appellation. Located in and around the Bradley-Lockwood area at the southernmost tip of Monterey County, the San Antonio Valley AVA is on the verge of adding an exciting, new facet to the wines of Monterey County. Newly designated as an official American Viticultural Area in June of 2007, the San Antonio Valley has lately undergone a long-deferred renaissance as growers and winemakers have come to rediscover the area's suitability for growing robust, fully mature fruit.

Tasting Notes: This special Spanish grape starts with bold, spicy cranberry on the nose. With its wonderfully smooth mouthfeel, this single varietal brings aromas of tart cherry, smoked meats and a long satisfying finish that creates a beautifully balanced glass of wine.

Comanche Cellars
2020
Tempranillo
Alcohol
12.5%
AVA
San Antonio Valley
Composition
100% Tempranillo
Aging Potential
8-10 years

Cover Article Continued



continued to be the most important player in Burgundy's wine production throughout the Kingdom of Burgundy's existence. At this time, Burgundy's reputation for superior wines greatly expanded, highly encouraged by the Kingdom's proud Dukes.

After Burgundy later became part of the Kingdom of France, the power of the Church began to slowly decline, including its firm grip on the regional wine production. Vineyards which had been Church-owned for centuries began being sold to members of the period's upper class. The French revolution then resulted in the remainder of the Church's vineyard holdings sold off.

Then, Napoleon really shook things up, even in the wine world. Napoleonic inheritance laws led to further subdivision of vineyards, often resulting in growers retaining just single rows. This situation allowed for the rise of another typical Burgundian institution - the *négociants*.

Négociants take fruit from multiple growers and then produce and sell the wines

under their own labels. Louis Jadot, Joseph Drouhin and Georges Duboeuf are *négociants* you'll often see in the French wine section of your local grocery store. Although these "wine merchants" exist throughout France, the unique arrangement of Burgundy's numerous small growers makes it very popular for the *négociants*.

We mentioned Grand Cru and Premier Cru earlier; other classifications are "village" appellations and regional appellations. Village appellation wines are normally blended wines from lesser quality vineyards within the boundaries of one of forty-two villages. For example, a wine may be just labeled "Meursault." At times, village wines will attach the name of a Grand Cru vineyard to their village designation, such as "Puligny-Montrachet," but if you see this, it does not indicate that the particular wine is a Grand Cru bottle.

Regional wines can be labeled as AOC Bourgogne (sourced and blended from anywhere in Burgundy), sous-régional (sourced from a specific area surrounding a village, but not distinct enough to be at the village appellation level— "Mâcon-Villages" is a good example), or wines of specific grape varieties (e.g. "Bourgogne Aligoté").

Chardonnay is by far the most common white varietal grown in Burgundy, and the wines it produces are considered among the best Chardonnays in the world. Aligoté is another white varietal grown and is popular for blending with black currant liqueur to make the drink known as a Kir. Chablis from Burgundy are Chardonnay wines and not the wine from a white cardboard box at the supermarket.

Pinot Noir dominates red varieties planted in Burgundy and enjoys a similar elevated reputation as Chardonnay for wines produced from it. The Gamay grape is fairly exclusive to the Beaujolais area and is the principal varietal for those light, fruity red wines famously released every November. (Also note that for whites and reds, varietal wines are the norm as opposed to blends, which is generally not typical for French wines.)

Interestingly, aside from sharing the production of superior Chardonnay and Pinot Noir wines, there is little else in common between Burgundy and Monterey County. Burgundy is completely landlocked, far from water, and experiences a serious continental climate with harsh winters and hot summers. Clearly the maritime influences (i.e. fog, afternoon winds, overnight temperature drops) that bless the Santa Lucia Highlands play such a vital role in making the AVA a comparable ideal home for the two varieties!

Bryce Ternet - contributing editor and is the author of three books. See <http://www.mbryceter.net.com/> for more.

Entertain with Cheese



PORT SALUT

Port Salut is a semi-soft pasteurized cow's milk cheese from Pays de la Loire, France, with a distinctive orange rind and a mild flavor. The cheese is produced in wheels approximately 23 cm (9 inch- es) in diameter, weighing approximately 2 kg (4.4 lb).

Though Port Salut has a mild flavor, it sometimes has a strong smell because it is a mature cheese. The smell increases the longer the cheese is kept — this however does not affect its flavor. It can be refrigerated and is best eaten within two weeks of opening.

The cheese was developed by Trappist monks during the 19th century at Portdu-Salut Abbey in Entrammes. The monks, many of whom had left France during the French revolution of 1789, learned cheese-making skills to support themselves abroad, and brought those skills back upon their return after the Bourbon Restoration. The name of their society, "Société Anonyme des Fermiers Réunis" (S.A.F.R.), later became their registered trademark, and is still printed on the wheels of Port Salut cheese.