

VINTNERS CLUB

a California non-profit public-benefit corporation
(founded in 1971)

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TASTING #1,504: PINOT NOIR: A SENSUOUS WINE THAT COMES IN MANY STYLES

6:00 p.m., Friday, April 20, 2012

VENUE: Metropolitan Club, San Francisco

The name Pinot Noir is derived from the French words for "pine" and "black" alluding to the varietal's tightly clustered dark purple pine cone-shaped bunches of fruit. It is a distinguished varietal, possessing special attributes not found in other red wines. Where Cabernet Sauvignon is powerful and fruity, Pinot Noir is delicate and elegant. If there is one word that best describes Pinot Noir, it is sensuous. That is, Pinot Noir gratifies the senses of smell and taste with aesthetic pleasures that almost defy description, and then delights the sense of touch with an incredibly silky feeling in the mouth.

As has been observed repeatedly over the 40-year history of the Vintners Club, there is no such thing as quintessential Pinot Noir; wine-makers create many and varied interpretations of this wine. Not only do wine-making techniques have an effect on the product, but so do region, soil, and microclimate.

On April 20, we will compare and contrast **12** current release Pinot Noirs produced in a variety of California microclimate pockets formed as a result of unique geological formations and cool, gentle breezes that blow in at various entry points alongside the Pacific Ocean:

Alma Rosa Winery & Vineyards, La Encantada Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills
Capiaux Cellars, Wilson Vineyard, Sonoma Coast
Ceja Vineyards, Carneros-Napa
Clouds Rest Vineyard, Limited Release, Sonoma Coast
David Bruce Winery, Estate, Santa Cruz Mountains
Keller Estate "Precioso", Sonoma County
Lucienne, Doctor's Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands
Paraiso Vineyards, Faite, Santa Lucia Highlands
Thomas Fogarty Winery, Rapley Trail Vineyard, Block M, Santa Cruz Mountains
Windsor Oaks Vineyards, Winemakers 2 Barrel 3-Clone Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley
Windward Vineyard, Monopole, Paso Robles
Wrath Wines, Tondré Grapefield, Santa Lucia Highlands

These **12** remarkable wines will be served in **12** separate *Riedel* crystal glasses at tables covered by white linen tablecloths and in an atmosphere of understated elegance. Comfortable seating. You will discover which wine is in which glass only after you have turned in your ballot, the scores have been tallied, and the results have been announced. A fun-filled Friday-night, relaxed, learning and social opportunity for the burgeoning Pinotphile as well as for the novice.

PRICE: \$90/member; \$140/non-member.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND: E-mail the Vintners Club, info@vintnersclub.com, to confirm seat availability. Then, fax your Visa/Mastercard information to the Vintners Club at (415) 381-4460.