



## West Coast Pinot Noir

Elegant, Complex and Luscious

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Registration: 6:00 PM, Tasting: 6:30 PM

Faculty Club, Univ. of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto

Members' Fee: \$111; Guests'/Non-Members' Fee: \$135

For our November event, the **Toronto Vintners Club** will be taking a road trip down the Pacific coast to explore Pinot Noir from British Columbia, Oregon and California. The differences in climate and terroir along the west coast produce wines with distinct characteristics and flavour profiles. Plus, unlike Burgundy where there is a long history and emphasis on tradition, winemakers on the West Coast are more innovative and willing to experiment, which contributes to unique expressions of Pinot Noir.

We begin our road trip in British Columbia (BC) where winemakers have been producing high quality Pinot Noir in recent years. B.C. Pinot Noir is known for its bright red fruit flavors, often cherry and raspberry, with hints of earthiness and subtle spice. BC's cooler climate can contribute to the wine's acidity and elegant structure, making it well balanced. These wines can also exhibit floral notes and a silky texture, which distinguishes them in the world of Pinot Noir.

Travelling south we stop in Oregon, where the Pinot Noir is elegant with complex characteristics. It often exhibits flavors of red berries like cherries and raspberries, along with notes of earthiness, herbs, and sometimes a subtle spiciness. These wines are generally medium-bodied with a good balance of acidity and tannins, making them approachable and food-friendly. Oregon's cool climate and diverse terroir contribute to the uniqueness of its Pinot Noirs, which can vary from one region to another, but they are generally celebrated for their finesse and nuance.

Our last stop will be in California where the Pinot Noir are generally more fruit-forward. Depending on the region within California where they are produced, the wines can vary in style but are generally known for having medium to light body, red fruit flavors like cherry and strawberry, and often notes of spices, vanilla, and sometimes earthy undertones.

Whether you prefer your Pinot Noir to be elegant or earthy or spicy, there will surely be a souvenir from this road trip that you will treasure. Paired with a variety of foods from poultry to salmon to earthy mushroom dishes, these versatile wines will create a memorable experience.

Our guest speaker will be Alex Abbot Boyd, Certified Sommelier and founder of Insider Wines, a boutique Ontario wine agency. The event price includes reception wine, bread, appetizers and, of course, our main wines. Newcomers and those who would like more tutoring are encouraged to sign up for the Newcomers' Table on our registration page. We look forward to seeing you!

**REGISTER/BUY TICKETS** online at [West Coast Pinot Noir November 21](#) and then pay by e-transfer, credit card (via PayPal) or by cheque. E-transfer & credit card payments must be received within 48 hours of signing up to secure your reservation. Cheques must be received by Tuesday, November 14. You will be sent an automated email confirmation from our online reservation system, JotForm, after submitting your registration. All ticket sales/reservations are final. **If you tried to register but did not receive your confirmation, please contact [winetastings@torontovintners.org](mailto:winetastings@torontovintners.org) before trying to register again.**



## Tasting Notes and Information – West Coast Pinot Noir

(Prices are as of date of purchase)

### **2019 Goldeneye Gowan Creek Vineyard California (\$120)**

"An impressive vintage bolsters this wine's already stellar reputation. Following scents of nutmeg, cardamom, and watermelon rind, the earthy liquid spreads across the palate, anchored by animal, plum, heather, wet soil, and gingerbread. Cinnamon takes shape on the mid-palate with candied yam, iron, and rhubarb. Exotic and profound." Tasting Panel: 97 Points

### **2018 Rhys Anderson Valley California (\$62)**

"The 2018 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley) is gracious and beautifully lifted. Spice, cedar, tobacco and star anise add pretty aromatic top notes, while beams of saline and mineral notes lend a good bit of vibrancy throughout. I especially like the translucence here. This is a very serious appellation-level wine." Vinous: 91 Points.

### **2019 Hirsch San Andreas Fault California (\$105)**

"Medium ruby-purple, the 2019 Pinot Noir San Andreas Fault is scented of cranberries, blackberries, forest floor and conifer, lemon peel and Angostura bitters. The light-bodied palate is delicate yet intense with a deep core of red fruit, a fine, powdery texture, seamless acidity and long finish." Robert Parker's Wine Advocate: 96 Points

### **2017 Resonance Decouverte Vineyard Oregon (\$93)**

"Résonance purchased this site close to Domaine Drouhin and Domaine Serene in 2014. After clearing the property of blackberry vines, they discovered a natural amphitheater on classic Jory soils (the Résonance vineyard, purchased in 2013, is planted on basalt). Vines were planted in 1996 and more Pinot Noir and Chardonnay have just been planted. Pale to medium ruby, the 2017 Pinot Noir Découverte Vineyard opens with inviting scents of raspberry jam, rhubarb and pomegranate with notes of warm earth and autumn leaves and a floral undercurrent. The palate is light to medium-bodied with youthfully shy fruits (this was bottled three to four months before I tasted it), with a soft frame and very juicy acidity, finishing restrained." Robert Parker's Wine Advocate: 91 Points

### **2019 Bergstrom Silice Oregon (\$129)**

"The 2019 Pinot Noir Silice Vineyard is generous and already very layered this vintage. The nose offers detailed cranberries, blackberries, licorice and flint. The palate is silky and has inviting savory tones streaking through the wild berry fruit. It finishes with fantastic length and detail. This was made using 100% whole clusters. Drink date: 2022-2037." Robert Parker's Wine Advocate: 97 Points

### **2019 Trisaeutum Ribbon Edge Estate Oregon (\$80)**

"Structure meets polish with this multilayered red, displaying expressive cherry and pomegranate flavors that are accented with black tea and clove and linger toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2030." Wine Spectator: 93 Points

### **2019 Quail's Gate Stewart Family Reserve British Columbia (\$65)**

"From Quails' Gate's West Kelowna estate, the 2019 vintage of their flagship Stewart Family Reserve Pinot is led by generous dark, savoury fruits, with the concentration to balance the forward, layered oak spices. Medium-full bodied, it's rich, dense, and well structured, with succulent acids and fine-grained tannins that will reward careful cellaring over the next 5-7 years." Geoffrey Moss, MW: 90 Points.

### **2017 Martin's Lane Simes Vineyard British Columbia (\$102)**

"45% whole clusters were included in the concrete fermenters from this east Kelowna vineyard, followed by a year and a half in French and Austrian oak barrels. It's a ripe, very polished wine, with supple, silky tannins, creamy-balanced acids, and dense black cherry and black raspberry fruit flavours. It's generous and mouth filling yet remains taut and nicely poised, firmly shaped and delineated. Length and depth are excellent. Drink or hold into the late-'20s." John Szabo, MS: 92 Points.