

# WINETALK

391

WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON

March 2024

## Coming Functions

Mar 10	The <b>BIG 'C'</b> Tasting
Apr 14	Ancient Wines
May 12	AGM & Options Tasting
Jun 9	Georges Road

## WINETALK MARCH 2024

What a great fun tasting the INVIVO evening was. Aaron Coxhead (Assistant Winemaker) was excellent and knowledgeable and for his first

presentation ever, he was very good. He had been thrown in at the deep end because Alan Gregory the Winemaker, who was really enthusiastic about coming down to us couldn't make it because of sudden commitments that came up.



Wines were beautiful and reasonable in price. I enjoyed the Pinot Gris which is not always what you expect and so many are not as good as you would expect. I call it an unreliable wine. Which leads me into a Pinot Gris tasting I had in my "other group". Once again they were all different in taste and flavour! What is it about Pinot Gris that we sometimes don't even recognise it? We can detect Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc flavours and textures a mile away. Gewurztraminer, Riesling all have particular characteristics that you can easily pick up which is why you choose to drink that wine, but Pinot Gris.....where does it come from?

## PINOT GRIS

Pinot Gris is a white grape variety thought to be a mutant clone of Pinot Noir. The grape normally has a white, pinkish grey hue, accounting for the name. The word Pinot could have been given to it because the grapes grow in a small pine-shaped cluster. It is thought to have originated in Burgundy, France and is now widely grown around the world. The flavours range from ripe tropical fruit notes of melon and mango to botrytis-influenced flavours as in Italy's Pinot Grigio. Pinot Gris grapes are an "early to harvest" grape. They are harvested early to retain freshness and acidity. It also minimises the fruitiness of the variety. Possibly this is why you find so many different flavours and tastes as some grapes are harvested earlier than others.

At the 'Gris' tasting with my "other group" the four Pinot Gris we tasted were so variable you wouldn't have recognised them as from the same grape. But an interesting tasting.

2022 CHARD FARM Pinot Gris from the Gibbston Valley in Central Otago. Floral with nutty flavours. Pleasant Pinot Gris and obviously the colder climate and hot summers have produced a lovely wine.

The two Italian Pinot Grigios a DOC 2022 Del-Venezi, VITIS NOSTRA and a 2022 NONNA SILVANIA Pinot Grigio from the northeast region of Italy were similar. Both crisp with minerality. Quite different to the other Pinots. We felt it had no "oomph". It is our New World wine palates I think, wanting more fruit forward.

2023 WAIHEKE ISLAND MAN 'O WAR, EXILED, Pinot Gris. This was the most stunning of the evening. The Exiled Pinot Gris is made from grapes sourced on both Waiheke and Ponui Islands.



[www.hamiltonwineclub.co.nz](http://www.hamiltonwineclub.co.nz)

Content - Gay Main, Graphical layout - Grumpy

The fruit is more advanced in flavour. Complex, full bodied, tropical, spice, citrus, pear, and green peas on the palate. We researched why it was called Exiled. This is because of the grape which originally came from the island of St Helena. This was a nod to Napoleon who was exiled on St Helena in the Mediterranean. So quite a dramatic wine with its flavours and history.

## ASH RIDGE - AWARD WINNING WINERY

Having a family friendly, relaxed winery and cellar door, Ash Ridge Wines have won the Bayley's Hawkes Bay Wine Awards "Cellar Door of the Year" 2023 with judges saying Leith and Tracy Ashworth are successfully building a cellar door experience that is young and fresh for all the community to enjoy.



Ash Ridge Winery is a boutique organic vineyard, cellar door and kitchen in the Bridge Pa Triangle on State Highway 50, Roy's Hill, Hastings. They have worked tirelessly to showcase their winery. Leith is an award-winning winemaker and also the winemaker of Junction Wines (owned by his parents John and Jo Ashworth) in Central Hawkes Bay. Junction Wines visited the club a few years ago with lovely wines. Leith is involved in every aspect of the business from growing, bottling, tastings, hosting events, farming the animals and can sometimes be found in the kitchen flipping Pizza. He started his wine career with Vidals in 2004 and says his mindset has changed since spending more time at the cellar door. "It is interesting to see and hear people talk about your wines and discussing the flavours. It has given me insights into how I make wine. I'm now making more approachable wines and getting enjoyment out of seeing people enjoy my wine."

The Bridge Pa Wine Association works well with all the wineries in the area. The Bridge Pa Triangle is regarded as a premier wine region of New Zealand and Ash Ridge are high in their praise of the Association. They employ students from the Winemaking Course at EIT rather than trained winemakers. It gives these emerging winemakers a chance to work at a winery that offers the whole thing from vineyard to winery to cellar door. Leith feels more comfortable in the winery but he said it is hard to beat the excitement of the harvest.

The winery produces a variety of wines and also offers a selection of Junction Wines, also made by Leith. They have a popular Wine Club to join to get the best of the wines. Visit and relax in their outdoor and verandah areas. There is plenty of shade, plenty of good wine and a friendly vineyard dog called Winston who loves company - and a pat. We hope to have Ash Ridge Wines visit the club later this year.



[www.hamiltonwineclub.co.nz](http://www.hamiltonwineclub.co.nz)

Content - Gay Main, Graphical layout - Grumpy

## WINESPEAK

**BROODING:** Wines that are brooding are dark in colour with intense concentration of flavour.

**BUD BURST:** Term used for when the vines begin to produce their first new shoots for the season. This takes place during Spring. This is the same term as bud break.

**CAP:** Name for the material that forms at the top of a fermenting vat made from the seeds, skin and stems.

**CONCENTRATED:** Concentrated is the opposite to light. Concentrated wines display a wealth of fruit richness and depth of flavours as well as raw materials.

## NEXT MEETING - WINES FROM THE CELLAR -THE BIG 'C' TASTING

This is going to be 'THE BIG 'C' TASTING'.

Think CELLAR, CHARDONNAY, CLEARVIEW and COMBINES.

Interested?

CELLARMASTER Karen has some fine wines in our CELLAR so COME along and enjoy this CHARISMATIC, CATEGORICALLY CHEERFUL, CAPTIVATING, CATAclysmic, CREATIVE, CHIC CHOICE of CHAMPION wines with a CROWD of CHOICE CLUB CONNOISSEURS.

CATCH you there.

Cheers,

*Gay Main*

# Pinot Gris

How to pronounce Pinot Gris: Pee-no Gree

Pinot Gris (aka Pinot Grigio) is a pinkish grape mutation of **Pinot Noir**. It's famously known for zesty white wines, but can also create fuller bodied white wines and even be used for rosé. Look to Northern Italy, Alsace, Oregon, and Germany for benchmark examples.

**Also known as:** Pinot Grigio, Grauburgunder, Ruländer



## PRIMARY FLAVORS



White Peach



Lemon Zest



Cantaloupe



Green Almond



Crushed Gravel

## TASTE PROFILE

Pinot Gris is a pink skinned grape with a broad spectrum of wine styles. Influenced by winemaking techniques and ripeness at harvest, it can vary from light and zesty to full-bodied and oily, even extending to late-harvested sweet, orange, and even rosé styles.

**On the nose**, Pinot Gris typically presents notes of ripe pear, apple, and peach. In cooler climates, it may lean towards citrus and green apple, while late-harvest expressions evoke tropical fruit, honey, and spice. Skin contact can produce an 'orange' wine with deeper, more exotic aromas.

**On the palate** styles range from light and crisp with high acidity to full-bodied and rich with more moderate acid. Wines can be dry or sweet, especially when late harvested or affected by Noble Rot. Rosé Pinot Gris offers a unique blend of crisp white and light red characteristics. In its multitude of expressions, Pinot Gris encapsulates the art and range of winemaking.

