

June 2009: Burgundy (Pinot Noir, Chardonnay)
July 2009: Country Wines (Fruit, Vegetable, Flower, Spice) and Mead/Honey
August 2009: Tuscan: Chianti, Brunello di Montalcino (Sangiovese)
Sept. 2009: German/Alsace Whites (Riesling, Gewurtztraminer)
Oct. 2009: Other Bordeaux: Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc
Nov. 2009: Dessert (Port, Sherry, Madeira, Ice Wine)
Dec. 2009: Piedmont: Barolo, Barbaresco (Nebbiolo)

January - June 2010: ?

Next three meetings:

Saturday, July 12, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. German/Alsace Whites (Riesling, Gewurtztraminer)

Saturday, August 9, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. California Reds (Zinfandel, Petite Sirah)

Saturday, September 13, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. Piemonte (Piedmont) Reds (Barolo, Barbaresco)

THE WINEMAKER'S CLUB

Burgundy Reds - June 7, 2008

Burgundy Red regions:

The Côte de Nuits: home of the great red Burgundies and the vast majority of Grands and Premiers Crus. Most famous villages are *Gevrey-Chambertin* and *Vosne-Romanée*.

The Côte de Beaune: known for both red and white wines, but the greatest white Burgundies (Chardonnay, not Chablis) are from here. But very good Pinots Noirs are made in this region.

These two regions collectively referred to as the Côte d'Or, or "Golden Slopes."

The major difference from Bordeaux is that Burgundy reds are not blended. They are wines made from a single grape variety:

Pinot Noir

Pinot Noir is grown best in cooler regions, especially on the cool limestone slopes of Burgundy, with little success when planted in other climates. Pinot Noir is a difficult grape to grow and a difficult wines to ferment. Partly due to the presence of 18 amino acids, Pinot Noir ferments violently. Deep color is a major problem because of the thin-skinned berries.

Aroma: Complex varietal with a ripe-grape or black cherry aroma, a pronounced spiciness with cinnamon, sassafras, or mint. Ripe tomato, mushroom, and barnyard. Full-bodied and rich, but not heavy. High in alcohol, but not acidic nor tannic. Soft, velvety texture.

Best Pinot Noir regions outside Burgundy. California: Santa Maria Valley (Santa Barbara County); Russian River Valley (Sonoma County); Carneros (in both Sonoma and Napa Counties); Anderson Valley (Mendocino County); as well as the Pinnacles (Monterey County) and Santa Lucia Highlands (Monterey County). Willamette Valley of Oregon. The Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. New Zealand.

Miles Raymond, *Sideways 2004*: "it's a hard grape to grow, as you know. Right? It's uh, it's thin-skinned, temperamental, ripens early. It's, you know, it's not a survivor like Cabernet, which can just grow anywhere and uh, thrive even when it's neglected. No, Pinot needs constant care and attention. You know? And in fact it can only grow in these really specific, little, tucked away corners of the world. And, and only the most patient and nurturing of growers can do it, really. Only somebody who really takes the time to understand Pinot's potential can then coax it into its fullest expression. Then, I mean, oh its flavors, they're just the most haunting and brilliant and thrilling and subtle and... ancient on the planet."

Gamay

Gamay is the primary black grape of France's Beaujolais region, where the wines are typically fermented, spared from aging, and consumed young to appreciate their fresh, fruity qualities, with more tang than tannin.

Winemaking Schedule:

April 2009: Cabernet Sauvignon

May 2009: Sauvignon Blanc