

## THE HOME WINEMAKER'S CLUB: CORK'S CREW

### Other Alsace Whites - October 18, 2008

#### Pinot Gris/Grigio

This is a white wine produced from the Pinot Gris grape. In Italy, the wine is known as Pinot Grigio. The Pinot Gris grape is a white variant clone of the Pinot Noir grape, which produces red wine. In Alsace, France, the Pinot Gris grape is called *tokay d'Alsace*. Depending upon ripeness at harvest, harvest timing and winemaking techniques, Pinot Gris can be tangy and light, or rich and full bodied. Pinot Gris is Alsace's fullest-bodied white wine and is much different from Italy's light, neutral-tasting Pinot Grigio and Oregon's fruity Pinot Gris. Italian Pinot Grigio is a leaner white wine, whereas Pinot Gris as made in France, Germany, California, Oregon and other New World arenas tend to be more full-bodied.

**Aroma** (from the grape varietal): lemon, apple, pear, mild floral.

**Bouquet** (from the winemaking and aging): from oak, vanilla, sweet wood, almond, smoke; if malolactic fermentation is done, butter and cream.

#### Pinot Blanc

The Pinot Blanc grape is a genetic mutation of the Pinot Gris grape. Pinot blanc skins have high tannin and Pinot Blanc wines tend to brown with age. Pinot Blanc is grown extensively in Alsace, France, where it is also known as Klevner. Pinot Blanc is also extensively grown in Italy, where it is known as Pinot Bianco. In Italy, it produces a neutral, crisp, high acid white wine.

**Aroma** (from the grape varietal): very light, non-distinct, neutral, slightly floral.

**Bouquet** (from the winemaking and aging): To add character, some winemakers use barrel fermentation, lees stirring, and malolactic fermentation to add butter, cream flavors.

#### Muscat

There are several varieties of the Muscat grape. The main varieties include Muscat of Alexandria, Muscat Blanc, Muscat Hamburg, and Muscat Ottonel. Muscat Blanc is the best known and most widely planted. Muscat Blanc is also known as Muscat Frontignan in France and Moscato di Canelli in Italy (which is Americanized to Muscat Canelli in the US, including Texas). This variety grows well in Texas. The Muscat grape produces intense, aromatic, sweet wines with a scent of muscat. The wine produced tastes very much like grapes. Most Muscat wines are sweet, dessert wines, but Alsace Muscat is often produced as a dry wine.

**Aroma** (from the grape varietal): terpine, coriander, peach, orange.

**Bouquet** (from the winemaking and aging): None.

#### Next Home Winemaker's Club Meeting

**Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 5:30 pm: Tuscan Reds (Chianti Classico, Brunello, Montepulciano)**