

THE ALBANY CLUB



Welcome To The International Wine & Food Society of Toronto

Tuesday March 24th 2009

Menu

North Ontario Artic Char Gravalax Tartlet Venison Loin Carpaccio with Fig Chutney on Walnut and Raisin Crostini



Trio of

Quebec Duck Foie Gras Wrapped around Truffle Mousse Potted Ostrich and Pistachio Terrine on Blonde Frisée Leaves and Warm Winter Black Truffle Soup



Crispy Mallard Duck Breast on Salt Cured Duck,
Roasted Mushroom and Camembert pie
Thyme Jus and Red Currant Drizzle



Apple Tarte Tatin with Le Gré des Champs Cheese

Bon Appétit

Pinot Noir Selection

Duck Pond Pinot Noir, 2006 (Oregon)

Kooyong Pinot Noir, 2005 (Australia)
Flat Rock Pinot Noir, 2006 (Ontario)

Hautes Cotes du Bourgogne, Domaine Nudant 2005 (Burgundy – Bourgogne)

Vosne Romanee, Domaine du Clos Frantin 1998 (Burgundy – Village)

Givry – Clos Salomon, Gardin-Perrotto 1999 (Burgundy – Premier Cru)

Mazoyeres Chambertin, Domaine Perrot-Minot, 1998 (Burgundy – Grand Cru)



I.W.F.S. PINOT NOIR TASTING

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Enjoying Pinot Noir

HOW WELL DOES PINOT NOIR AGE? It's a question that baffles many lovers of the grape. In Burgundy alone there are wines that will last up to a couple of decades and wines that seem hardly able to last the year. Admittedly the two types do not usually come from the same producers, though sometimes they do come from the same communes.

Almost all Pinot Noir is delicious young; some is delicious mature. In between there is a period of adolescence, when the wine can be closed, even gawky, and can be as awkward at table as human adolescents. Watch out for that, and when it happens tuck your wine away for a couple of years: it is the only stage at which the grape does not give enormous pleasure. Otherwise you can catch its youthful fruit and perfume by opening it within months of bottling or you can wait until it is grown up and full of savoury spice.

Lesser vintages on the Côte d'Or should often be drunk within three to eight years: if a vintage is described as 'early drinking', then don't delay. Only the bigger, oakier wines are a little unfriendly in youth, as the oak hides the fruit.

Most Pinot Noirs from outside the Côte d'Or should be drunk young, within five years or so. The exceptions are the weightiest wines from regions like California's Santa Barbara, where they last longer: a decade should not be a problem for these.

Champagne is different again: Blancs de Noirs can be sturdy wines, though their aging ability depends partly on how much Pinot Meunier the blend contains. Most focus on weight and breadth over long ageability - and almost all are non-vintage. So keep them for another 12 months or so after you buy them, and then get the glasses out.

The taste of Pinot Noir

There's always something mouthwatering about good Pinot Noir; something that makes you want to go back to the glass again and again to pin down those elusive flavours. Because descriptions like strawberry, black cherry, game, leather, mushrooms, don't really tell you what it tastes like. Pinot is all these things, and none of them, sliding from one flavour to another. Words like 'complex', 'ethereal' or 'profound' may tell you even less about what it tastes like, but sometimes they are the only words that will do.

the outlying parts of Burgundy, from Switzerland, from Carneros, from New Zealand, really do taste of strawberries. They are generally low in acidity, though the north of Burgundy can be an exception here, and low in tannin. Finer examples combine

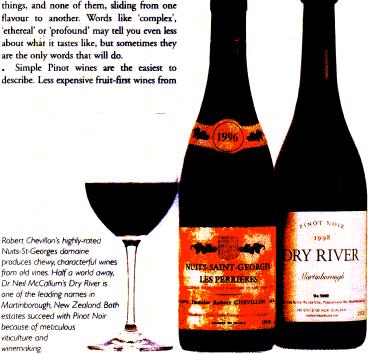
strawberries or black cherries with sensuous yet focused flavours, perhaps with a touch of incense and spice, sometimes with a pungent, gamy richness to balance the fruit.

Mature wines gain flavours of leather and woodsmoke, game and undergrowth, even a touch of rotting vegetables. Primary fruit is less important, though the wines should always taste fruity and perhaps slightly sweet. But labelling a mature Pinot with a particular type of fruit is usually quite impossible; every time you think you've caught the precise flavour, it's moved on to something else.

Matching Pinot Noir and food

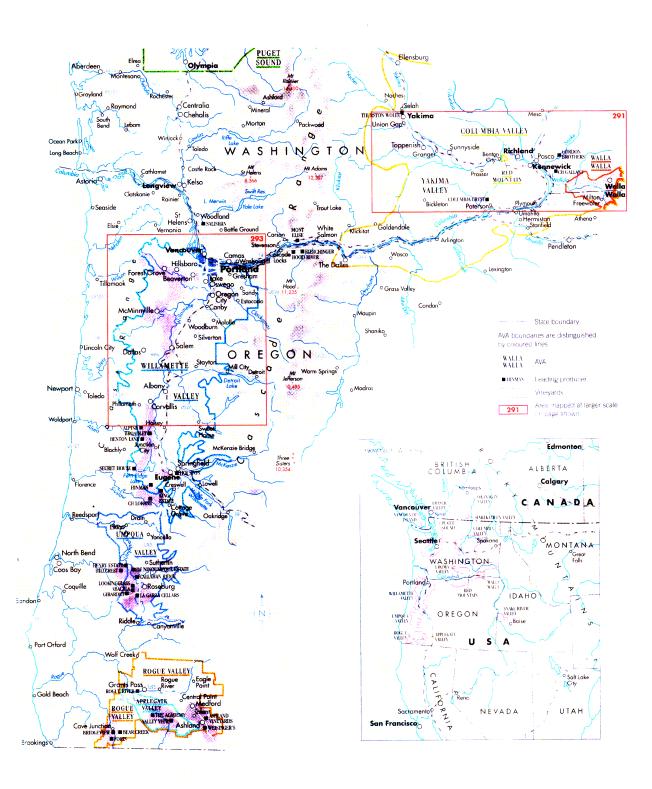
The great grape of Burgundy has taken its food-friendly complexity all over the wine world However nothing can beat the marriage of great wine with sublime local food that is Burgundy's heritage, and it is Burgundian dishes that spring to mind as perfect partners for Pinot Noir: coq au vin, chicken with tarragon, rabbit with mustard, braised ham, boeuf bourguignon... the list is endless

Pinot Noir's subtle flavours make it a natural choice for complex meat dishes but it is also excellent with plain grills and roasts, and with most dishes based on mushrooms. Richer examples are the ideal match for roast or casseroled game birds, and in its lighter manifestations from, say, the Loire or Oregon, Pinot Noir is a good match for salmon or salmon trout.



WINE #1: DUCK POND PINOT NOIR 2006

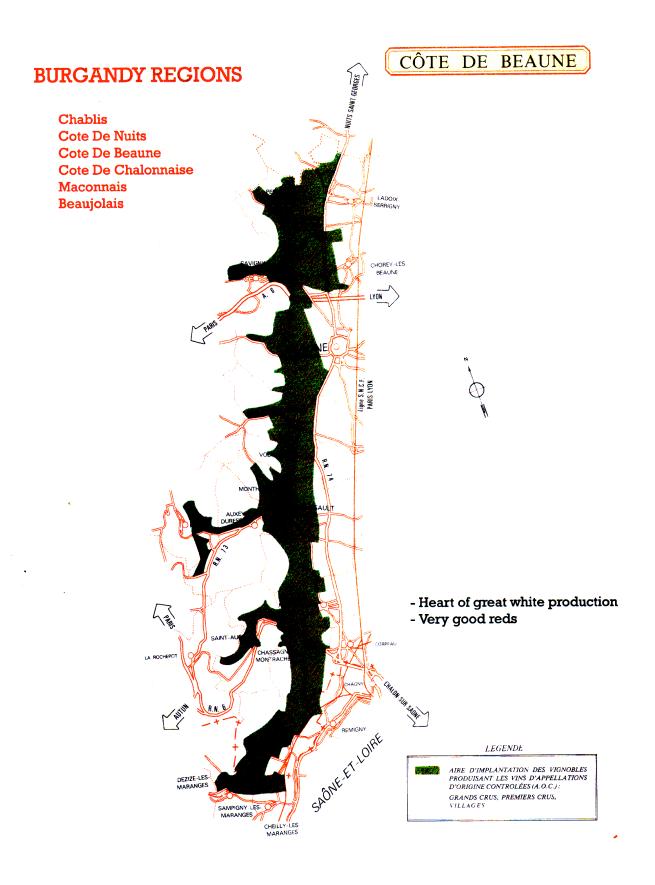
Oregon: Willamette Valley(AVA)



WINE #2: KOOYONG PINOT NOIR, 2005

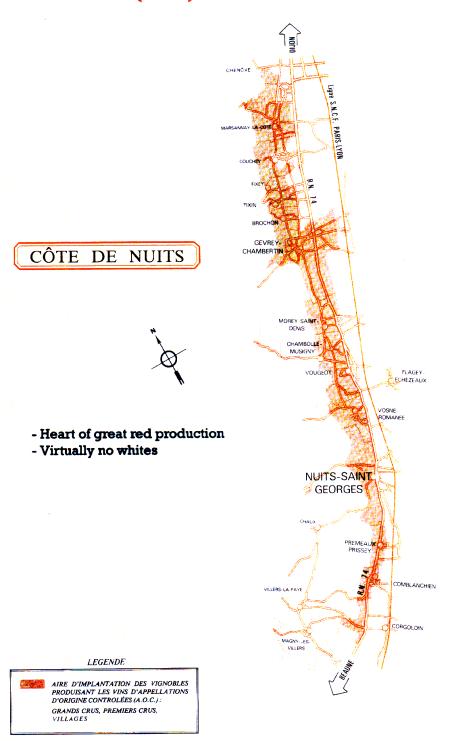
Australia/Victoria: Morningon Pennisula (WR)



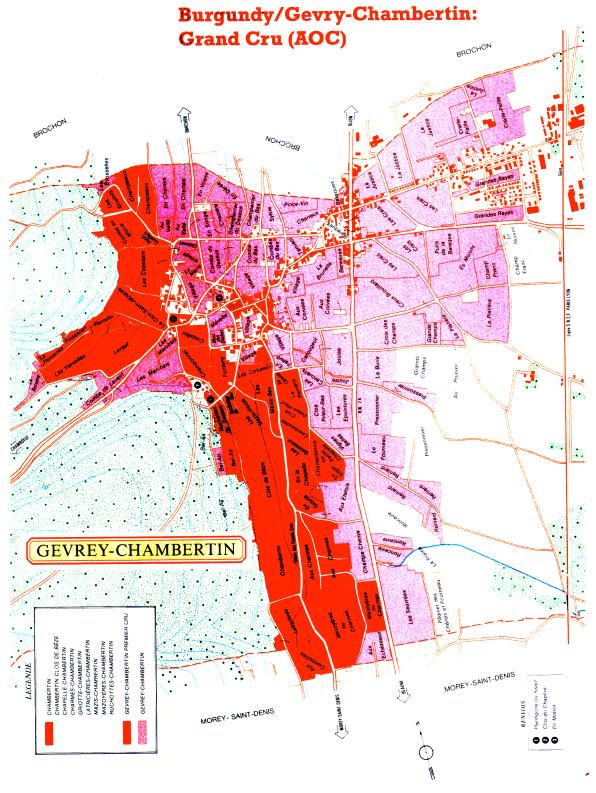


WINE # 4: HAUTES COTES DU BOURGOGNE 2005 DOMAINE NUDANT

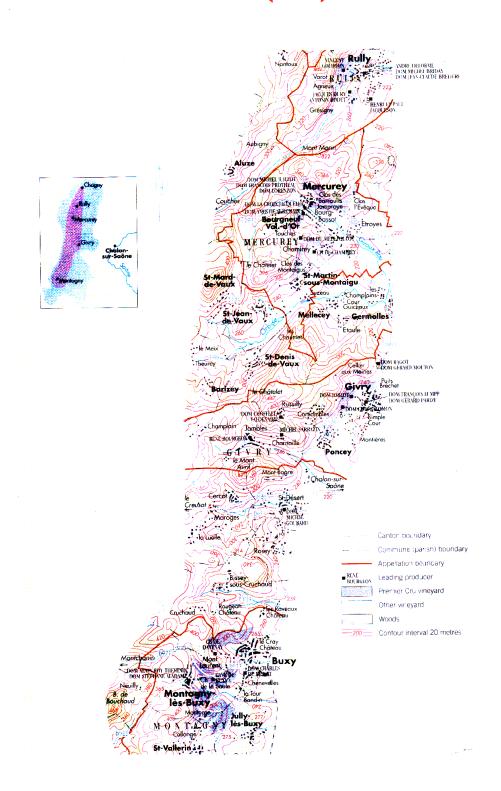
Burgundy/Cote De Nuits: Hills behind (west) of Cote De Nuits



WINE #7: MAZOYERES CHAMBERTIN 1998 DOMAINE PERROT-MINOT



WINE #6: GIVRY - CLOS SOLOMON 1999 MAISON GARDIN - PERROTTO Burgundy/Cote Chalonnaise: Premier Cru (AOC)



WINE #5: VOSNE ROMANEE 1998 DOMAINE CLOS FRANTIN Burgundy/Vosne Romanee: Village (AOC)

