



## Wine Tasting – From Where Does this Pinot Grow?

Goal: You will taste four different wines, all made from the Pinot Noir grape. The objective of the tasting is to correctly identify where the wine comes from solely by tasting it. For those without their Master of Wine certification, there are six possible regions listed below to give you a hand. You can read the brief, general synopsis of each region to help you guess which region each wine is from. Please note that these are broad generalities and do not necessarily reflect the wine you will taste. After tasting each wine, feel free to make notes and make your guesses on the sheet provided.

Write your name on the tasting notes page below and record your selection for the region “from where this Pinot grows”

Have fun and good luck!

*Brian Gurnham*

Chief Cork Officer

## Descriptions of six Pinot Noir wine regions

**Burgundy** - The birthplace of Pinot Noir and the template for the heights the grape can reach in wine. Located in Eastern France a couple hundred miles southeast of Paris, this region is world renowned for its wine. Critics fawn over the elegance and complexity while noting the balance of fruitiness and earthiness. Many highlight aromas of cherries, raspberries, mushrooms, truffles, or game (sometimes also referred to as "barnyard"). Wines are usually moderate with alcohol, acidity, and tannin with oak, a sparingly and subtle part of the equation.



**Willamette Valley** - In the cool, wet Northwest of Oregon, Pinot Noir has found a suitable and enjoyable home. Buffered by the Cascade Mountains and the Coastal Range, this AVA (American Viticulture Area) has become known for its silky smooth Pinots. Light to medium bodies, these wines tend to display more fruit than earthiness, although the latter is usually apparent. Aromas of red and black cherries are often described as well as raspberries and a bit off spice.

**Russian River Valley** - In Northern California, this AVA at the southern end of Sonoma County is a prime place for Pinot production. Cooled by the fogs that roll in from the San Pablo Bay, the vineyards here get the right blend of sun and temperate weather for Pinot to thrive. The abundant sunshine of the Californian summers ensure that Pinots here will ripen well, creating big, juicy examples. The luscious wines from here sometimes are a bit darker than elsewhere in the world and have an abundance of fruit aromas and flavors.



**Carneros** - In Napa Valley, prominently known for its Cabernet Sauvignon, this AVA has gained a reputation for its examples of Pinot Noir. Cooled by the San Pablo Bay, Carneros also benefits from substantial winds, which are uncommon for the area. The result is light and aromatic Pinot Noirs that are sometimes not as full bodied as other regions in the world.

**Yarra Valley** - This large GI (Geographic Indication) runs west to east starting just outside of Melbourne along Australia's southern coast. There is a bit of variety in the region as the more northerly reaches are much warmer and drier than those that follow the Yarra River in the south. The cool sites within the GI have produced light, complex,

wines with aromas of strawberries and forest fruit. Some would say Yarra Valley produces some of the most delicate Pinot in the world.



**Marlborough** - On the South Island of New Zealand in the South Pacific, this region enjoys the cooling effect of the mammoth ocean off its shores. Marlborough has steadily built a reputation for unique Sauvignon Blanc and recently built up support for another cool climate varietal: Pinot Noir. Similar to other New World regions, the fruitiness of the grapes is often accentuated rather than any earthy tones. In fact, some would argue that Marlborough Pinot Noirs carry the most intensity of fruit flavors.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Wine #1</b>	<b>Wine #2</b>
Tasting Notes		
Your guess of the region that produced this Pinot Noir (Burgundy, Willamette Valley, Russian River Valley, Carneros, Marlborough, Yarra Valley)		

	<b>Wine #3</b>	<b>Wine #4</b>
Tasting Notes		
Your guess of the region that produced this Pinot Noir (Burgundy, Willamette Valley, Russian River Valley, Carneros, Marlborough, Yarra Valley)		