

All Stars of Pinot Noir Rock the 2016 World of Pinot Part 2

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Oregon wine country has garnered lots of attention in recent years. With extensive investment by French producers, Willamette Valley is likened to Burgundy, with its fractured marine soils and glacial-carved valleys that provide the “terroir” that seems so important to distinctive Pinot Noir.

- **Gran Moraine** in the Yamhill-Carlton AVA crafts more floral, mineral wines with darker fruit and earth notes, different from most of the California Pinots, more Burgundian in style. Respected winemaker Eugenia Keegan’s expertise reflects her experiences in Burgundy, Napa, and Oregon, and the 2013 vintage is her first for Gran Moraine. The nuances of mushroom, truffle, and forest floor give an umami to the wines, along with their heady aromas of wild berry fruit, herbs, and spice.

France’s Burgundy is the beating heart for Pinot Noir, often thought of as the origin for this wildly popular grape. A complex region, with many different styles, Burgundy is the inspiration for Pinot Noir around the world. New Zealand, in particular, has had success with its fruit-driven style of Pinot, the second most widely planted varietal throughout the North and South Islands, from Marlborough and Hawkes Bay to Central Otago while Tasmania is home to some beautiful examples of sparkling Pinot.

- **Champagne Dosnan & Lepage**, a small artisanal Champagne house, poured a beautiful Brut rosé and Brut Noir, steeped in minerality, refreshing



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and distinctive.

- **Domaine Gille** offered a fantastic comparison of Villages, Premier Cru, and Grand Cru Burgundy wines from the Côte de Nuits. Balanced and complex, with long finishes, these Burgundian beauties really channel the mystique of Pinot Noir for me. The 2013 Nuits Saint Georges “Les Brûlées” was powerful, red berry fruit with spice, a structured, sublime wine that will shine with food. The Corton Renards Grand Cru was amazing, complex and cellar-worthy, while the 2012 Nuits Saint George Premier Cru “Les Cailles” was my favorite, an elegant, full-bodied, and dynamic wine.
- **Veritas Imports** poured a selection of Pinot from Maison Camille Giroud. Among the lineup of Santenay, Marsannay, and Chambolle-Musigny, the Gevrey-Chambertin was brilliant, really amazing in its silky texture, crisp acidity, and dense body.
- **Maori Point** wowed with their stunning 2012 Central Otago Pinot, vibrant and wild, plush with high-toned fruit, a touch of spice and savory undertones that reflects the intense environment from where it comes.
- **Jansz Tasmania** poured a very nice sparkling rose, delicate and nuanced, they are known for their “Méthode Tasmanoise”, producing only quality sparkling wine from this very cool and maritime climate.

In addition to the main tasting events, the **2016 World of Pinot** offered some perks for those in attendance. The “Myth-Busting; Pinot, Cheese, and Chocolate” seminars were not to be missed. **Fromagerie Sophie** of San Luis Obispo set the Pinot and Cheese seminar on fire with a selection of eight fabulous cheeses from France, Germany and Sonoma County, paired with **Navarro Vineyards**, **Ron Rubin**, and **Niner Wine Estates** Pinot Noir. **Jessica Foster Confections** of Santa Barbara blew everyone’s minds with her Pop Rocks topped chocolate truffle, which intensified the bubbly in the **Anne Amie Brut Rosé**, phenomenal and life-changing! Five other skillfully crafted truffles were paired with **J Vineyards Brut Rosé** and **Westwood Estate Pommard Clone Pinot Noir**, surpassing all expectations of wine with chocolate.

Tantalizing and temperamental, Pinot Noir, in all its incarnations, has captivated all who have ever drunk or made Pinot wines. The **World of Pinot Noir** brings together a sampling of some of the best wines around, with their passionate producers, for this fabulous annual event, it’s truly unlike any other tasting, where you can have the opportunity to taste, compare, learn, meet the winemakers and get hooked on the lifelong pursuit of Pinot!



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