



THE
ATHENÆUM
PALL MALL LONDON

**A Tutored Wine
Tasting and Dinner
Pinot Noir Wines**

Tuesday 10th January 2023, 7pm

Speaker: Jasper Morris MW (Member)

Introduced by: Professor Kathleen Burk

Chairman: Professor James Crabbe

MENU AND DINNER WINES

Ferdinand Bonnet Champagne Réserve Les Riceys NV
Brut

Gougères



Tomato tarte fine with basil, garlic and shallot

Mâcon-Uchizy 2021, Domaine Talmard, Mâconnais

Boeuf Bourguignon served with creamed potatoes
and roasted seasonal vegetables

Barda Pinot Noir 2021, Bodega Chacra, Patagonia
Santenay Clos de Tavannes Premier Cru 2014,
Domaine Jean-Noel Gagnard, Burgundy



Honey and cinnamon spiced red wine poached pear
with pouring cream

Les Trois Schistes 2015, Domaine de Montgilet,
Coteaux de l'Aubance

Coffee

Petits fours

TASTING WINES

Burgundy - Bourgogne Rouge 2020, Benjamin Leroux, 12.5%

To launch the tasting of Pinot Noir round the world, it seems fitting to start with a Burgundy at the modest end of the spectrum. Benjamin Leroux, though from an established Beaune family, came into the world of wine from outside, working at the Domaine du Comte Armand in Pommard as a holiday job. Unexpectedly, he was promoted to run the domaine at the age of 23, in 1999. His ambition, though, was to start his own business and that became possible through an English investor in 2007. Since then, they have been able to buy some vineyards, though his Bourgogne Rouge comes from purchased grapes, some at generic Bourgogne level, and some from declassified village level vineyards. This wine was made using destemmed fruit, and subsequently aged more in large wooden foudres than in barrel.



Pictured: Benjamin Leroux

Loire – Sancerre Rouge 2019, Château La Rabotine, Alban Roblin, 14%

The choice for a non-Burgundian French Pinot Noir lay between hillier parts of the South of France, Alsace or the Central Vineyards of the Loire. Pinot Noir has long been planted in appellations such as Sancerre and Menetou-Salon but was often limited in the past to the less favoured, north-facing slopes. Over the last twenty years more attention has been paid to finding more suitable locations in which Pinot might thrive, as well as the grape enjoying in this region benefits from warmer temperatures. Alban Roblin comes from Sury-en-Vaux, just outside Sancerre. The domaine, located at the Château la Rabotine, comprises 12 hectares, of which 10 are planted to Sauvignon Blanc and the remaining two to Pinot Noir. For this Sancerre Rouge, made from 30 year old vines and with destemmed grapes, 20% was aged in barrel.

Germany – Bürgstadter Spätburgunder 2019, Rudolf Fürst, Franken, 13%

The first Fürst to grow grapes for wine in this part of Franconia



Pictured: Sebastian Fürst

can be traced back to 1638. When Paul and Monika Fürst took over from Paul's father in 1979, they developed the wine side of the family farm in place of polyculture, expanding vineyard holdings from 1.5ha to 21 hectares. Their son Sebastian joined in 2007 and took over in 2018. They make three Grosse Gewachs (grand cru) Pinots, Centgrafenberg, Schlossberg and Hundsrück, an Erste Lagen (1er Cru) Bürgstadter Berg and this Bürgstadter village wine. The top wines in particular feature a significant proportion of whole bunch vinification. Both Paul (2003) and Sebastian (2018) have won the accolade of German Winemaker of the Year. They are adepts at all aspects of their work, from meticulously managed vineyards often at high density planting, through to the work in the winery, and cellar where the wines are aged in French oak.

Slovenia – Pinot Noir 2016, Verus, Štajerska Slovenija, 13.5%

Our representative from possible central or eastern European countries comes from Slovenia and can be found on the Coffee Room Wine List. Verus was founded in 2007 by three vinegrowing friends, Rajko Žličar, Danilo Šnajder and Božidar Grabova in Styrian Slovenia, mostly to make white wines from grapes such as Furmint, Sauvignon, Riesling and Muskateller. In 2009 they decided to plant Pinot Noir to make their one red wine, using Dijon clone 777. The soil is predominantly grey marl and limey sandstone. The grapes were destemmed and fermented with more punching down than is usual now in Burgundy, in order to ensure adequate extraction. The wine was matured for a year in three to five year old barrels.

Producer's notes: "On the nose the wine express pleasant fruity character. On the palate you can find elegant combination of intense flavour and lovely gentle acid. The wine has beautiful ruby colour."

California – Pinot Noir 2019, Au Bon Climat, Santa Barbara County, 13.5%

California produces more than twice as much Pinot Noir as Oregon, with several different centres of excellence. The glamour focus for California Pinot may be in Sonoma County, revolving around the Russian River and the Sonoma Coast, but the Central Coast, north of Santa Barbara and south of San Luis Obispo, provides exceptional quality at a more affordable price. The key is the



Pictured: Jim Clendenen, Santa Barbara Winemaking Pioneer

unique make-up of the mountain ranges which here and only here (between Alaska and Tierra del Fuego) run inland from the coast rather than parallel to it, thus drawing in cool air from the Pacific coast.

As well as being the setting for the film Sideways, this part of the Central Coast has typically been an area which attracts mavericks, and none more exuberant than the late Jim Clendenen who

started his Au Bon Climat label in 1982, specialising in Pinot Noir and Chardonnay – though out of his winery came a profusion of other labels covering scores of other grape varieties, both famous and obscure. The Santa Barbara bottling comes from several different vineyards in the Santa Barbara County and Santa Maria Valley AVAs.

Patagonia – Pinot Noir 2020, Cincuenta y Cinco 55, Bodega Chacra, 13%

There is something irresistible about the concept of Pinot from Patagonia. Bodega Chacra was established in Patagonia's Rio Negro Valley in 2004 by Piero Incisa della Rocchetta, grandson of the creator of the famous super-Tuscan wine Sassicaia. Having tasted other Pinot Noir wines from this region, Piero Incisa purchased some already established vineyards to create Bodega Chacra. The Cincuenta y Cinco bottling comes from vineyards planted in 1955 on a riverbed soil, full of pebbles, farmed organically and using biodynamic principles. The grapes are fermented as whole bunches in concrete tanks, then aged for 9 months half in similar tanks and half in French oak, using recent but not new barrels, from two to five years old.

Producer's notes: "There is a wonderful purity in this wine with dried strawberry and iodine. This refined red mixes crushed bilberry and cherry fruit with undertones of smoke, game and mineral. A fine length."

Australia – Moorooduc Pinot Noir 2018, Mornington Peninsula, 13%

This Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, winery is run by Kate McIntyre, Master of Wine, and daughter of founders Richard and Jill McIntyre. Richard McIntyre discovered the joys of burgundy while doing his doctorate at Oxford and subsequently planted vines in the Mornington Peninsula, south of Melbourne, starting with Chardonnay and red Bordeaux varieties, before grafting the latter over to Pinot Noir. They were among the first in Australia to vinify using indigenous yeasts. The grapes are destemmed for the regular estate bottling. Vinous Mornington is often divided between 'up-the-hill' and 'down-the-hill' locations, but it is more the soil types than the altitude which defines quality, with a ferruginous element higher up. Moorooduc is a leading proponent of 'down-the-hill' Mornington Pinot, made partly from their own vines and partly from their neighbours' vineyards.

New Zealand – Pinot Noir ‘Bannockburn’ 2020, Felton Road, Central Otago, 14%

Bannockburn is a distinct sub-section of the Cromwell basin in Central Otago. Where not planted with vineyards the landscape looks more like a moonscape having been ravaged by goldmining in the 19th century. The area used to be known as ‘the heart of the desert’. Felton Road, owned since 2000 by eccentric Englishman Nigel Greening, has become arguably the most renowned Pinot Noir winery in New Zealand, certainly in Central Otago. Much can be put down to Nigel’s determination and ambition, but also to winemaker Blair Walter, already in post when Greening bought the vineyard. They pioneered biodynamic vineyard cultivation in New Zealand, certified since 2009.

2020 was a cool summer with a long ripening season – the first grapes being picked on March 20th and the last on April 20th. The



Pictured, Felton Road

grapes are mostly destemmed, retaining 20% whole bunches,

fermented with natural yeasts, then aged for 13 months in French oak, with 30% new wood.

Producer's notes: "Bramble, autumnal forest after rain and bright berry fruits lead the nose. Sweet fruit on the entry coats the mouth; immediately expansive and alluring. Incredibly balanced and harmonious with the fruit depth defining the immediate pleasure, but without the wine falling victim to being 'fruit driven'. Silk laden tannins complete the mouthfeel and demonstrate an apparent boundless capacity to develop nuance and complexity. The harmony undoubtedly comes from the calibre of our four primely situated and respectfully farmed Bannockburn vineyards."

APERITIF WINE

Ferdinand Bonnet Champagne Réserve Les Riceys NV Brut, 12.5%

The current pouring Champagne on the Coffee Room Wine List is a blend of three grapes, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Blanc. It comes from the southern part of Champagne, the Côte des Bar, and specifically from Les Riceys, a village particularly known for the quality of its Pinot Noir grapes.

DINNER WINES

Burgundy - Mâcon-Uchizy 2021, Domaine Talmard,
Mâconnais, Chardonnay grape, 12.5%

A long time Coffee Room favourite, Domaine Talmard is the best known producer in the village of Uchizy, at the northern end of the Mâconnais, near the gastronomic town of Tournus. This pure Chardonnay has been vinified in stainless steel so as to be immediately enjoyable.

Patagonia – Barda Pinot Noir 2021, Bodega Chacra, 13%

Bodega Chacra was established in Patagonia's Rio Negro Valley in 2004 by Piero Incisa della Rocchetta, grandson of the creator of the famous super-Tuscan wine Sassicaia. Having tasted other Pinot Noir wines from this region, Piero Incisa purchased some already established vineyards to create Bodega Chacra.

The Barda Pinot Noir is aimed at being accessible in youth. It comes from their youngest Pinot vines, planted in 1990 on slightly sandy soil, ungrafted and from massal selection rather than clones. Vinification is in concrete tanks using natural yeasts, with ageing for 11 months half in the same type of tank, and half in French oak with 15% new wood.

Burgundy – Santenay Premier Cru Clos de Tavannes 2014, Domaine Jean-Noel Gagnard, Chassagne-Montrachet, 13.5

Clos de Tavannes formerly belonged to the rather grand Saulx de



Tavannes family, whose number included Gaspard de Saulx, a 16th-century Marshal of France. This can be one of the classiest of Santenays; indeed, tasting it blind one's thoughts might wander towards the Côte de Nuits. The Jean-Noël Gagnard holding is separated from the rest of the vineyard by a road and thus appears to be part of Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Morgeot. The domaine has been run since 1989 by

Jean-Noël's daughter Caroline Lestimé. The Clos de Tavannes, made from destemmed grapes, is probably the domaine's finest red.

Loire – Les Trois Schistes 2015, Domaine de Montgilet, Coteaux l'Aubance, 11%

The gorgeous sweet wines of the River Loire are made from the Chenin Blanc grape, providing a fresh acidity to balance the luscious sweet apple and pear fruit. Domaine de Montgilet are prime producers in the Coteaux de l'Aubance, just down the road from the Coteaux du Layon.

Global Pinot Noir plantings (2016 data)

		bearing area (ha)	% of world
1	France	31602	30.0
2	United States	22998	21.8
3	Germany	11184	10.6
4	New Zealand	5514	5.2
5	Italy	5057	4.8
6	Australia	4806	4.6
7	Switzerland	4209	4.0
8	Chile	4091	3.9
9	Moldova	2366	2.2
10	Romania	1930	1.8
11	Argentina	1866	1.8
12	South Africa	1153	1.1
13	Hungary	1092	1.0
14	Spain	969	0.9
15	Russia	918	0.9
16	Czechia	697	0.7
17	Canada	639	0.6
18	Serbia	633	0.6
19	Austria	614	0.6
20	UK	546	0.5
	Others	2597	2.5
	Total	105480	100

Source:

Which Wine Grape Varieties are Grown Where?

Kym Anderson and Signe Nelgen
University of Adelaide Press, 2020

MEMBERS AND GUESTS

George Anderson Esq	Alison Rhind	Graeme Groom Esq
Ann Anderson	Alexandros Haidas, Esq	Prof. Dame Anne M Rafferty
Robert Ashdown Esq	Elias Frangoulis	Professor Peter Rigby
Michael J Black Esq	His Honour Richard Havery	Julia Rigby
Tom Flanagan esq	His Honour Brendan Hegarty	Iain Roxborough Esq
David C Bonsall Esq	Irene Hegarty	Lorna R Sandler
Margaret Bonsall	Stuart Hibberdine Esq	Joe Wigoder Esq
Richard M Orchard Esq	Richard N B Higham Esq	Raviraj Saravanamuttu Esq
Dr Ross Breckenridge	Michael Hockney Esq	Michael Shaw Esq
Dr Consti Perricos	Dr Ian Hudson	Gery Roberts Esq
Professor Kathleen Burk	Dr John Dunbar	Dr Kevin G Shields
Christopher Davey Esq	Ms Lucinda Hunt	Scott Frisby Esq
Vivienne Davey	David Bramwell Esq	Dr Michael Simpson
Michael Hildesley Esq	Nicholas Lacey Esq	Professor Barbara Goff
Lady Butterworth	Teresa Lundquist	Dr Jonathan Sklar
John Burley Esq	Nick Lanyon Esq	Martin Smedley Esq
Professor Paul J Ciclitira	Professor Daniel Larkin	Helen Smedley
Deborah Middleton	Hazellanne Lewis	Nicholas Smedley Esq
Alistair J Cliff Esq	Miles Thomas Esq	Kate Jennings
Ashley Hollinshead Esq	Dr Meredith Lloyd-Evans Esq	Sir Robert A Talma Stheeman
Dr Peter J Collins	Laurence Lobo Esq	Elisabeth (Lady) Stheeman
Christopher Coombe Esq	Professor David R London	David R F Thomas Esq
Dr Ian Cooper	Dr Elisabeth Macdonald	Diana Uff
Prof. Christopher Poole	Richard Mair Esq	Professor John Uff
Prof. M James C Crabbe	Dr Johann Malawana	Professor Tim Unwin
Margaret O'Rorke	Dr George Miller	Christiane Valansot
Alan V Davey Esq	David W Mann Esq	Professor Charles Watkins
Glyn Davey	Richard J Manuell Esq	Richard Cumming-Bruce
Matthew J di Rienzo Esq	Patrick J McGuinness Esq	Simon Wethered Esq
Mark Ford Esq	Simon Hughes Esq	Dr Adrian J Winbow
Eamonn Doran Esq	W J Clovis Meath Baker Esq	Cathrine Winbow
Fr Giovanni Prandini	Boadicea Meath Baker	HE Ms Lynette Wood
Sir Brian Fender	Colin D L Menzies Esq	Gillian Wood
Professor Steve Myint	Edward Kemp-Luck Esq	Professor Anthony Wright
Ian M.G. Fleming Esq	Jasper Morris Esq, MW	James R G Wright Esq
Anne Fleming	John Neilson Esq	Tim Hayward Esq
Professor Laurence Gormley	Rt Rev Richard Atkinson	Dominic Young Esq
Matthew Taylor Esq	His Hon. Michael Oppenheimer	Tom Howard Esq
Eoin Raftery Esq	Nicky Oppenheimer	
Edward Greeno Esq	Sarah Phillips	