



Ontario Pinot Noir 2021 Wine Align Award Winners

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Registration 6:15 PM, Tasting 6:30 PM

Faculty Club, Univ. of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto

Members' Fee: \$85; Guests'/Non-Members' Fee: \$110

Maya: *"So why are you so into Pinots? They're like a thing with you."*

Miles: *"It's a hard grape to grow, as you know. It's thin-skinned, temperamental, ripens early. It's not a survivor like Cabernet that can grow anywhere and thrive even when neglected. No, Pinot needs constant care and attention, you know? And in fact it can only grow in these really specific, little, tucked away corners of the world. And, only the most patient and nurturing of growers can do it, really. Only somebody who really takes the time... to understand Pinot's potential... can then coax it into its fullest expression. Then, I mean, oh its flavors, they're just the most haunting and brilliant and thrilling and subtle and... ancient on the planet"*

From the movie "Sideways"

Welcome back! Toronto Vintners Club is kicking off the fall with a tasting of Pinot Noir from our local heroes - Ontario wineries that have taken on the "Heartbreak Grape" and were recognized at the 2021 National Wine Awards for their quality. Situated in the center of the world's wine belt, between 41° – 44°N, Southern Ontario possesses the ideal climate and terroir for Pinot Noir. According to Thomas Bachelder, a noted winemaker who has made pinot in four countries spanning three continents, including Burgundy: *"I'd say Ontario is the closest thing to Bourgogne outside of Europe,"* he says. *"There are, of course, similarities that will continue to be highlighted but I think the more interesting aspects of winemaking are revealed in the differences between both regions. One unique element (of Ontario) is the beautiful minerality and pop from the region's limestone-laced soils that, over time, I'm hoping the rest of the world will come to appreciate and covet as much as I do."*

Our tasting will feature eight wines from the two regions that are most notable for their Pinot Noir - Prince Edward County and the Niagara Peninsula. Prince Edward County is located about three hours east of Toronto and is prized for its limestone bedrock and lake effect breezes, lending a savoury and mineral taste to its pinot noir. Its climate tends to produce wines with strong acidity, the kind that unmistakably identifies this specific place on the wine map. In Niagara, the key to producing world-class pinot noir wines stems from the limestone soils and the Niagara Escarpment's relation to Lake Ontario. The distance that the vineyards lie from the lake and the foot of the escarpment determines, in large measure, the character of the wine. This is why the Niagara Peninsula was broken down into ten sub appellations to help further distinguish the region's diverse terroir as it relates to wine.

We will be tasting four wines from each region to discover their unique characteristics. All of these wines won awards at the 2021 National Wine Awards, which is no mean feat, as there were over 2,000 entries from 260 wineries across Canada! Our guest speaker will be Tim Reed-Manessy, Sommelier and Territory Manager with the Living Vine wine import agency.

The event price includes bread, appetizers and, of course, our main wines! We look forward to seeing you!

REGISTER/ BUY TICKETS online at [Ontario Pinot Noir Sept 20, 2022](#) and then pay by e-transfer or credit card (via PayPal). Payment must be received by Friday, September 16. **All ticket sales/reservations are final.** You will be sent an email confirmation after completing your registration. If you tried to register but did not receive your confirmation, please contact winetastings@torontovintners.org before trying to register again.



Tasting Notes and Information – Ontario Pinot Noir

(Prices are as of date of purchase)

**2019 Malivoire Mottiar Pinot Noir,
Beamsville Bench \$39.95**

Wine Align Silver Award 2021

Wine Align Winery of the Year 2021

"More dried herbs and underbrush put this pinot noir into a location marked by a drier climate (at least for the vintage), hot summer and cool nights. Intense varietal wine, high in acid, picked early and showing great potential. The wood is really well used, managed and integrated. More than the price is right in pinot noir that presses all the right buttons. Should improve with a year or more's time. Drink 2022-2026." 92 pts Michael Godel - October 2021

**2019 Leaning Post Pinot Noir Grimsby Hillside
Vineyard, Lincoln Lakeshore \$50.20**

Wine Align Silver Award 2021

"This shows bright and pure red cherry fruit with a floral lift. It's textured, supple, and silky, with real elegance. Very fine." 90 pts Geoffrey Moss, MW October 2021

**2019 Hidden Bench Estate Pinot Noir, Unfiltered,
Beamsville Bench \$34.95**

Wine Align Silver Award 2021

"This has become the standard for really well grown (organic) and made Bench pinot noir. The rating here is all about balance, fine mouthwatering acidity without sourness, firm tannin without astringency and moderate alcohol. It has a lifted, classic cool climate strawberry/red cherry nose nicely fitted with toasty oak, cinnamon spice and subtle herbs. It is light to mid weight brisk an obviously still youthful. Will age well five years, I would give another year to soften just a bit." 91 pts David Lawrason - Feb 2021.

**2019 Marynissen Platinum Series Pinot Noir
Niagara Peninsula \$39.95**

Wine Align Silver Award 2021

"Filled with strawberry and sticky red berry, some pretty floral tones and a nice pepperiness on the nose, this is such a pure, ripe red fruited style that's even keeled in structure and finely spiced on the finish. Well done." 91 pts Brent Muller - October 2021

**2019 Stanners The Narrow Rows,
Prince Edward County \$45.00**

Wine Align Gold Award 2021

"This pinot not only has exceptional fragrance, it is the closest to top notch Burgundy than I can recall from anywhere in the World. It is an almost haunting blend of violet florality, blue fruit and cranberry mixed with pitch perfect oak spice, vanillin, a touch of meatiness and damp forest floor. I could simply sit and inhale these fine aromas all night. On the palate it light to mid-weight, firm, taut and brittle but staying south of austerity, and needing just a couple to years to shave the edges. The length is excellent, with classic County minerality. A kind of high stung violin with cello notes pinot." 93 pts David Lawrason - Sept 2021

**2019 Closson Chase South Clos Pinot Noir,
Prince Edward County \$50.00**

Wine Align Silver Award 2021

"An elegant Pinot Noir with alluring red cherry and raspberry fruit that's complemented by a gentle touch of spice. Medium-bodied, mouthwatering, and supple, this has tremendous vibrancy and finesse." 91 pts Geoffrey Moss, MW - October 2021

**2019 Broken Stone Pinot Noir
Prince Edward County \$29.95**

Wine Align Silver Award 2021

No professional notes available. From LCBO Website: "Family-run winery Broken Stone keeps their yields low, encouraging vines to produce only the best fruit. Their pinot noir shows great colour concentration, with aromas and flavours of ripe raspberries, plums, and earthy notes."

**2018 Karlo Estates Estate Pinot Noir,
Prince Edward County \$48.00**

Wine Align Bronze Award 2021

"There's a mix of action here on the nose, delivering some sweet, oak-derived character, old, wet wood, tart red fruit like red currants and cranberries, also bruised fruit, lightly dried and oxidized, like old jam; the palate is light-weight, lean and firm, with structure based mostly on acids. Length and depth are decent. Chill and enjoy." 88 pts John Szabo - October 2020