



King George Chapter  
 August 2024  
[www.kgwinesociety.com](http://www.kgwinesociety.com)

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As rain pelted down and wind gusted fiercely while Tropical Storm Debby blew through King George, 19 members and 1 guest (Jeanette Smith) of the KG Wine Society stood their ground to learn more about Pinot Noir in a blind tasting led by Chris Strickland on Aug 9 at the American Legion. Chris pulled together 6 Pinot Noirs and one starter, from various regions across the globe to share how



fickle that grape can be. Following the starter wine, Vin Gris de Pinot Noir from Gabriele Rausse, 6 wines were poured into each attendees' glasses and facts and tidbits were shared such as the first written record of the varietal PN dates from 1375. The grapes are thinned-skinned and delicate, grow in small, compact bunches that somewhat resemble a pinecone. The grape has been coined the heartbreak grape as it is difficult to grow and its tight package make them susceptible to mildew and rot. Cool climates and excellent air drainage are paramount to the

grape thriving. Chris continued to share general facts and then he homed in on the regions that he would be highlighting through the wines being tasted. Each taster was to absorb that material, taste each glassful and identify in which region it most likely was produced. He had wines from France, the number one producer of Pinot Noir and is considered the benchmark of all other Pinot Noirs; Oregon's Willamette Valley where the climate provides a long grape-growing season ideal for PN; Germany the third largest PN producer worldwide and it is their number one grape more often known as Spätburgunder; Italy in an area in the northeastern part of the country with soil rich in limestone and dolomite with ronchi- meaning terraced- vineyards; Argentina where the grape is the third most planted red and has a cool and dry climate; and New Zealand where PN is the leading red export from areas that are very dry and breezy. Wow, a lot of good information to grasp and that is just a small portion of what Chris shared. Armed with this newly shared information, the tasters began to identify the regions associated with each wine. The results were not spectacular supporting Chris premise that PN is fickle. Just one person got three correctly matched; a few with two and a spattering of just one. But each learned a lot during the evening and by the time it was over TS Debby was a thing of the past and all could safely travel home. The favored PN was Casalino 2023 at \$10.99 from Italy. Other wines included:



King Maui 2021 \$16.99 (New Zealand)  
 Dagger Leaf 2021 \$21.99 (Oregon)  
 Koskil 2021 \$16.99 (Argentina)

Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiller 2020 \$19.99 (Germany)  
 Héritiers Benoit Pépé Maurice 2022 \$19.99 (France)

**BIG NEWS-** The Riedel Glass experience will occur. Reservations have been obtained so that the correct amount of glassware can be shipped. Much is happening behind the scenes to prepared for this exciting event. Please honor your reservation and be prepared to pay the required amount as Mike has graciously pulled from his own coffers to foot the bill to enable the glasses to be shipped. We don't want him to be out of any personal funds. September 13 is the date starting at 7pm.

Other fun and educational tastings are planned for the remainder of the year to include:

Oct 11 South African Wines presented by Diane Tucker (previous guest presenter).

Nov 8 Tom Burckell will share his knowledge on Grenache.

Dec 17 We will all delight in holiday festivities.