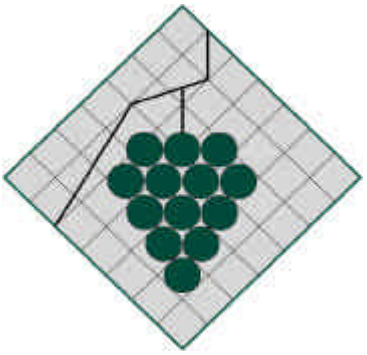


PINOT NOIR - TASMANIA WORKSHOP 2003

FINAL REPORT to
Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation

Project Number: **RT 02/02-1**
Principal Investigator: **Graham Wiltshire**

Research Organisation:
PINOT NOIR FORUM - TASMANIA Inc.

Date: **27 FEBRUARY 2003**

Executive summary

The Pinot Noir - Tasmania Workshop 2003 is the continuation of a successful series of annual workshops arranged by the Pinot Noir Forum- Tasmania Inc. since 1999.

The theme of the Workshop is the better understanding of Pinot Noir for premium table wine, with an emphasis in viticulture and clonal selection, winemaking - styles and technology and a review of the past seasons' wines - a tasting of barrel samples of the premium wines of the participants. Discussion of each wine is accompanied by details of viticultural practice, seasonal condition and wine making techniques employed.

It is the opinion of the Executive Committee of the Forum that the benefits gained from this specialist group has contributed to the better understanding of the variety and of wine styles. Better and more complete data management is emerging along with a more open exchange of information.

In increasing participant numbers, the group has benefited from the experiences from other regions and it has presented opportunities for cooperative trials and R&D.

The inclusion of an academic as Workshop Leader and speaker such as Dr Patrick Iland, set a new standard for the workshop. This was balanced with an overseas participant - Lynn Penner-Ash, a winemaker with 17 years experience in the USA.

Following a recommendation from Dr. Iland, the format of the workshop is to be amended to cover most of the topics in the first half of the three-day program. More informal discussion sessions are to be included in future workshops.

Planning for the 2004 Workshop is under way. Participant numbers are to remain at 49.

Background

The direction of the Forum is the quality of fruit arriving at the de-stemmer.

Data is collected from participants covering seasonal effects, phenology and harvest analysis and includes details of clones, yields and methods of controlling and forecasting yields.

This data is presented along with the wine under discussion.

Likewise the influence of fruit handling and winemaking is considered.

It was indicated in the application that the number of participants would be between 30 and 40. Interest was greater than expected and numbers increased to 49. This number represents seven working parties in tables of seven. The Workshop Leader and guest speakers participated in the working parties.

A segment on sparkling wine was recommended in the application. On reviewing this topic it was considered that it is a separate subject and should be addressed as such.

Objectives
The workshop is modelled on the Oregon 'Steamboat' conference and the Southern New Zealand Pinot Noir Conference. Participation is open to all Members of the Pinot Noir Forum - Tasmania Inc and Member's partners and senior members of their staff. Guest participants (non-members) were invited to attend subject to the requirement that they were actively participating in a management position in viticultural and/or winemaking; are producing Pinot noir wines and demonstrate a willingness and capacity to contribute.

Workshop numbers were limited to 49 participants.

Forty-nine participant registered for the 2003 Workshop, represented by South Australia 3 -Tasmania 32 - Victoria 8 - West Australia 3 - France 1, Oregon USA 2.

There were no changes to the objects of the application; minor changes where made to program content as outlines in section 2 of this report.

Method
The project took the form of a seminar, held over three days at a mountain resort well removed from vineyards, day to day activities and mobile phones.

February is the chosen timing for the workshop as it provides an opportunity for participants to evaluate their wines at a stage approaching bottling and giving participants an opportunity to consider suggestions or recommendations from a peer group before preparing wines for bottling.

The small working parties (parties of 7) provide opportunities for individual participation and all participants have the opportunity to lead a working party during the workshop.

Discussion and Outcomes
Dr. Patrick Iland as Workshop Leader introduced topics and sought inter-active discussions.

His contributions and professional competence were much appreciated by participants. Apart from his leadership role Dr Iland introduced the following topics: -

> *"Pinot Noir - what are we dealing with?"* - understanding the peculiarities of Pinot Noir.
> *"Trials with harvest criteria to identify characteristics -and flavour intensity'"*
> *"Is denuding the fruiting zone the kiss of death for Pinot Noir?"* A back to basics on the importance of canopy management and sugar/flavour accumulation.
> *"Quality effects of bunch and berry size of Pinot Noir"*

Guest speaker, Ms. Lynn Penner-Ash is a highly regarded winemaker in her home state of Oregon. Specialising in fermentation technology, Lynn contributed with topics covering handling of fruit from harvest to de-stemming through many pre and post fermentation techniques, introducing a number of novel methods of managing seasonal conditions and fermentation. She also participated with Dr. Iland to discuss Harvest Criteria and audience questions.

Other topics included: -

"Pre-fermentation maceration for Pinot Noir"
"Does gently really do it" - a discussion on various handling methods of fruit, must and wine.
"Pinot Noir Terroir trials in Oregon" - results with wine samples of ongoing trials in Oregon.

Other discussions covered trial work being undertaken by participants.

These ranged from light reflective cloth evaluation.

Monoclonal wines and extended lees contact.

Mr Gary Farr (By Farr - Geelong) discussed his experiences of handling Pinot Noir in both Victoria and Burgundy over a period of many years.

The purpose of the workshop is to obtain a better understanding of the variety and managing it in diverse regions and conditions.

Numbers attending have grown each year and this year included participants from most Pinot Noir growing regions of Australia

It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that Participants were well satisfied with the outcome of the Workshop.

Promulgation of future events and a review of Workshop 2003 will be available on the Forum's web site, presently under construction, and is expected to be available by the end of March 2003.