

Gregory Graham

The Wine

Viognier is a varietal which is less well known than other whites. It is one of the most appealing whites around. Viognier originates from Condrieu, a small town in the northern Rhone area of France. All white wine labeled as Condrieu is 100% Viognier, and most experts believe the variety was planted in Condrieu by the Greeks more than 2000 years ago. Pinot Noir deserves its nickname, "the wine that never forgets." It is a responsive, delicate grape, which readily displays its origins and history. However, this sensitivity and demanding nature are also Pinot Noir's greatest strength.

Syrah was added to the Gregory Graham wine varietal mix because it parallels our Rhone direction along with Viogniers. Syrah, not to be confused with Petite Syrah, is a wine that offers great fruit intensity, spicy flavors, and gentle soft textures. The characteristics make it a very enjoyable and a great accompaniment to many meals.

Carneros Region

The boundaries of the Carneros region span the southern ends of both Napa and Sonoma Valleys, but the region's unique microclimate sets it apart viticulturally. The influence of nearby San Pablo Bay makes Carneros an especially cool growing area, with average temperatures warmer in the spring and fall and cooler in the summer than the valleys to the north.

In spring, the warm Bay air minimizes the risk of frost and nurtures an early bud break. During the growing season, warm air moving toward the sea meets cool air moving inland, creating a blanket of fog, which descends in the early evening and clears by midmorning. Those extra hours of cool morning temperatures help the grapes retain a perfect acid and pH balance. Once the fog has cleared, the vines bask in bright sunlight, and warm temperatures coax the grapes toward maturity. In late afternoon, a cool breeze moves north from the Bay, cooling the grapes again.

This unique Carneros climate allows the grapes to mature slowly and evenly, producing superior Pinot Noir.