

**WHITEWATER VALLEY WINE SOCIETY**  
**July 2023 Tasting**  
**Wines from Southern Continents' Boutique Vineyards**  
**Presented by Preet Sahota, Edgmond Wines**

Reflecting members' feedback, we welcomed back Preet Sahota, who last year enthusiastically presented some stunning boutique wines from South Africa. Since then Preet has expanded his portfolio to include boutique wines from Australia and New Zealand. So this tasting included wines from all three of those countries – a real treat for New World wine lovers! Boutique wines are those produced on a small scale, limited-production, hand-crafted and artisanal. Probably, most of these wines are new to our members and it is exciting to see what the upcoming winemakers are producing. Edgmond Wines has been operating for over 8 years now and in that time they have been privileged to work with a number of boutique winemakers who they now consider close friends. Prices quoted are normal retail prices - members placing orders benefited from a substantial discount!

Our evening's tasting started with a **Nederburg The Winemasters' Pinot Grigio 2021 Western Cape South Africa** [12.5%, £16.95]. It is very rare to find a 100% Pinot Grigio from South Africa and this example comes from a single vineyard in Paarl. Its colour was extremely pale and the nose had subtle hints of peach with a little citrus. Compared to the usual Italian Pinot Grigio it was slightly off dry and therefore, preferred by some members - generally, a well balanced, crisp and refreshing wine that was well liked.

The second white wine was a **Wolf Blass Gold Label Chardonnay Adelaide Hills Australia** [12.5%, £24.95] from grapes from a low yielding single vineyard. This wine had a pale gold colour with aromas of peach, honey and hints of grapefruit and vanilla oak. Acidity was well balanced with flavour and there was a long finish. This elegant wine was vibrant and fresh for 6 years of age and well appreciated by most members present.

Our final white wine was a **Neurdorf Rosie's Chardonnay 2019 New Zealand** [14%, £34.95] of 'Moutere Single Vineyard' level, from the spectacular 2019 vintage. Pale gold in colour there were aromas of peach, strawberries and hints of oak in the nose. More restrained and refined than the previous wine, it felt more full bodied on the palate due to higher alcohol - a well-made and elegant wine!

We stayed in New Zealand for our first red wine of the tasting - a **Giesen Vineyard Selection Pinot Noir Marlborough New Zealand** [13.5%, £16.95]. Originally from Germany the Giesen Brothers have been making wine for over 30 years and this is one of their wines from one of their top single vineyards. It had a typical light, semi-transparent cherry-red colour with hints of floral aromas on the nose. In the mouth there were flavours of dark cherries accompanied by warm savoury spice and silky, supple tannins. Generally it was a well balanced wine with delicate acidity and might have been even better slightly chilled?

We returned to South Africa for our next wine - a **Villa Esposito Pinotage 2018 Skurfberg South Africa** [13.5%, £24.95] made with grapes from a 3 ha bush-vine single vineyard, in an area akin to Burgundy. This wine had a dark black-cherry colour and intense and concentrated aromas of ripe cherries, Christmas cake with sweet smokey undertones on the palate. It is already ageing well and judged by experts to last until 2032 - a totally stunning wine!

We remained in the Western Cape area for the next wine - a **Blake Family Wines Malbec 2020 Western Cape South Africa** [14.%, £16.95] with a very dense black-cherry colour. Malbec is an unusual grape for the region and is grown on a single vineyard in the cooler region outside Cape Town. This was a fruit-driven wine both on the nose and palate - full of plums and raspberries and a delightful freshness. Tannins were well integrated - in fact barely noticeable so not a wine to keep for long.

We returned to Australia for our final wines, the first of which was a **Wolf Blass Noir Cabernet Sauvignon 2020 South Australia** [14%, £17.95] 'boutique' in style rather than producer? It had a dense blackcurrant colour and was fruit driven on both the nose and palate. Predominant flavours were blackberries, cassis, hints of leaves accompanied by subtle savoury oak - generous on the palate with smooth, gentle tannins. Definitely, a wine for the cellar!

And to end a most interesting and entertaining evening we had a **Wolf Blass Grey Label Shiraz 2016 McLaren Vale Australia** [14.5%, £49.95] that is part of the Wolf Blass Luxury Collection from selected vineyards. It had a dense blackcurrant colour with intense aromas of rich blackberries, blueberries, liquorice and fragrant oak. The palate was plush with opulent, complex layers of dark fruits and warm spices. Good structure, fine acidity and tannins results in a wine of great power and elegance. Wow!

Another impressive selection from Preet, well delivered and presented! Our grateful thanks, Preet for a super tasting!