

**WHITEWATER VALLEY WINE SOCIETY**  
**November 2025 Tasting**  
**New Zealand Pinot Noir [mostly!]**  
**Presented by James Booth Director New Generation Wines**

This month we welcomed James Booth, Director of New Generation Wines, who was presenting to us for the first time. New Generation was set up by James in 2006. His company imports and distributes wines to independent merchants across the UK and the London focused on-trade, as well as supplying selected lines to multiple retailers. James creates its portfolio around wines which he believes have an edge; those that stand out from the crowd, challenge perceptions and which are made by inspirational people, forward thinkers and pioneers. The focus of our evening was on New Zealand Pinot Noirs. James also included two white wines; wines which he regards as rather special and which he wanted to show us. All the wines mentioned below were supplied by Caviste at Newlyn's Farm and we thank their representative, Charles, for joining us.

Our first wine of the evening had a classic Pinot Noir appearance being clear, light and translucent. This **Kumeu Village Pinot Noir 2022** [13%, £18.95] blended from grapes originating in the Auckland and Hawke's Bay regions had a light-medium body with flavours of raspberry, red cherries with a subtle savoury edge, good acidity with no barrel fermentation.

The second wine also from the Kumeu region came from a single vineyard - a **Kumeu River Range Road Pinot Noir 2020** [13%, £30.00]. This had a dark cherry-red colour and was denser in appearance [so less Burgundian]. Full of dark-cherry and plum flavours, there were spicy oak and savoury notes but with a sweet creamy edge. It had more body than the first wine with medium tannins and was generally preferred.

We moved to the Marlborough region of South Island for the next wine - an **Auntsfield Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2021** [14%, £29.00] that had a dark cherry-red/verging on blackcurrant colour. This classic Marlborough style wine, with red-cherry, plum and blackberry flavours was full of similar fruit flavours with notes of dark chocolate and spice, a silky texture, fine tannins and a long finish.

The best yet! We then had a bit of a surprise when the next wine was poured - a **Valli Waitaki Pinot Noir 2020** [12.5%, £59.00] from North Otago, as we returned to a more typical Pinot Noir coloured wine that was lighter in colour and translucent. But this was a medium-bodied wine with a difference; it had all the expected aromas and flavours of the previous wines that was fresh, pure and complex on the palate; it had fine silky tannins and a long finish with notes of spice. A treat to experience!

The next wines took us north to the Waipara Valley in North Canterbury. The first wine was a **Pegasus Bay Pinot Noir 2021** [14%, £42.00] that had a deep ruby colour and complex aromas of black cherry, cocoa, savoury truffle and spice. It had a medium-plus supple body, velvety tannins, well balanced acidity and a long, persistent finish. Very acceptable!

Our final red was from the same estate - a **Pegasus Bay Estate Aged Release Pinot Noir 2015** [13.5%, £59.00] that had a dense black-cherry colour. Dark fruit aromas were evident with hints of chocolate and smoke. Ripe dark fruits also dominated the palate that had a sweet edge, accompanied by medium to full bodied velvety tannins and a long and complex finish....a delight!

Our last two wines were white. The **Kumeu Valley Chardonnay 2024** [13%, £18.95] had a pale golden colour and aromas of lemon, lime, peach and apple. It was full bodied with notes of fig and white peach on the minerally palate with a taut and saline finish. Possibly the best Chardonnay produced in New Zealand according to our presenter?

And last but not least - a **Pegasus Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2021** [14.5%, £26.00] with a pale lemon colour and a vibrant bouquet of tropical fruit and citrus notes that were repeated on the palate. This slightly off-dry wine [from the Sémillon component] was a serious and complex wine with a long and complex finish. A fitting and refreshing end to our Interesting and enlightening tasting from wine-making pioneers in New Zealand today!

Members extend their grateful and appreciative thanks to James for his selection of great wines and improving their knowledge of New Zealand wine-making today.

