



Pinot Noir [PEE-noh NWAHR] The red grape of France's Burgundy region. It's responsible for the great and (expensive) red wines from Burgundy's Cote D Or region. Pinot Noir is thought to have been grown in France for over 2000 years, perhaps even prior to the Roman invasion of this area. The Pinot Noir vine is described a "genetically unstable" meaning that it mutates very easily, which makes consistency form this vine extremely difficult. There are estimates of over 1000 different types of clones belonging to the Pinot family. The combination of Pinot Noir's mutating characteristic and difficult growing requirements (requiring a long, cool growing season) makes this variety a frustrating grape from which to make wine. Outside of France quality Pinot Noir grapes are grown in Washington, Oregon, cooler parts of California, higher elevations in Italy, Eastern Europe and in the southern hemisphere where temperatures tend to be cooler than at same latitude in the northern hemisphere.