



REX'S PRACTICAL TIPS #19

PINOT GRIS IN THE VINEYARD

**There's so much to learn about this variety
I thought I would share
some personal observations.**

Pinot Gris is precocious, so achieving good yields is rarely a problem, but there do appear to be some significant yield differences between clones.

We assessed yield on a first year block on consistent soil types, pruned to an average of 8 buds per vines, then thinned to 6 shoots per vine in early November. Yield results per vine as follows, in kg/vine:

KWV40A	GM 2/15	KWV7A	LINCOLN BERRYSMITH
2.04	1.50	1.89	1.26

What was most interesting is that we could find no difference in bunch numbers/vine. We did remove the third bunch pre-veraison but the number of bunches removed was consistent between clones and the number of bunches left was consistent. The yield difference is dramatic, with KWV40A being the heaviest producer and Lincoln Berrysmith producing approximately 25% less than the average crop.

It is clear that on our property, the lower producing clones had less berries per bunch and possibly smaller berries too. This was supported by field observation. Visually the bunches from tightest to loosest were as follows;

**KWV40A > GM 2/15 > KWV7A > LINCOLN BERRYSMITH >
Tightest Most Open**

Now, here's where it gets really interesting. About 2 weeks before harvest we had a 68mm rain event, after weeks with absolutely no rain and no irrigation. These are perfect conditions for splitting. My expectation was the splitting would be directly proportional to tightness of bunch. Close observation 2-3 days after the rain revealed no correlation

whatsoever. Only fully exposed bunches were split and the level of splitting was absolutely consistent between clones, at around 5% of berries. Even the very tight bunched KWV40A seemed to come through well.

Mind you we did notice that it colours more, and seems to have a slightly thicker skin. We have not made individual wines from this small block, but I did note some flavour / aromatic / phenolic characters in the vineyard.

More	————	Structure and Phenolics	————	Less		
KWV40A	-	GM 2/15	—	KWV7A	—	LBS
Apple/Pear	————	Balanced	————	Spicy		

Whats above is a summary of my own assessments and may not be consistent with what you observe on your property. Like Pinot noir, we believe multiple clonal plantings will ultimately give the best results.

Rex.



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