

You are invited to participate in

THE MERRYMURDER WINE TASTING GAME



On: _____

Location: _____

Time: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____



RSVP



The seemingly peaceful village of Pinot Grigio requires a new chairman for its wine making society. Six contenders apply for the position, and so to decide who takes over as chairman, a competition is announced. At a special wine club meeting, each applicant will submit a wine to be tasted and judged by a famous French wine critic. The brewer of the wine he decides is best will become the new club chairman. But on the tasting night, disaster strikes. One of the contenders, local magistrate **COLONEL PIGATO, 63**, succumbs to a lethal dose of hemlock nightshade. And it turns out one member of the wine making society specialises in concocting murderous tipples...

LADY SHIRAZ, 56,
Bossy Lady of the Manor

MAC ABEO, 35,
Entrepreneurial Dairy Farmer

OLD ROLLO, 58,
Sly and Sneaky Poacher

SYBIL CHARDONNAY, 88,
Eccentric Octogenarian

MILLY MERLOT, 28,
Barmaid, Home Help
and Unmarried Mother

MARECHAL FOCH, 49,
Flamboyant French
Wine Expert

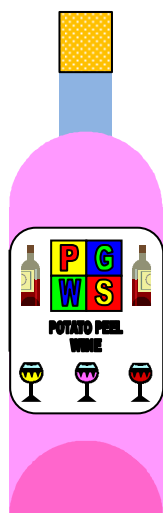
You are invited to assist

REVEREND RIESLING, 52,
Vicar of St Pepin's

Discover Whodunnit!

(Assuming the Vicar isn't guilty him/herself!)

www.merrymurder.com



LETTER TO MARECHAL FOCH, WINE WRITER FOR THE “SUNDAY SNOOZE”

My dear Marechal,

I do hope you will forgive the liberty of writing to you, but I am hoping you will remember fondly our days at Oxford together, and help out an old friend in their time of need. I have followed your career with interest over the years, and am an avid reader of your wine column in the “Sunday Snooze”. So therefore when this predicament arose, I thought of you.

I am the vicar of St. Pepins in the small village of Pinot Grigio. I am an avid member of the village wine making society. Recently our chairwoman, Mrs Ava Tipple, emigrated to Canada, to be with her son and his family. This left us without a chairperson, and so I took temporary control while we held an election.

Six members of the society offered themselves as candidates. At our last meeting, each gave a short talk on why they should lead the group. The members of the society then held a secret ballot. You can imagine our surprise when the votes were counted, and all six candidates had tied!

This left us in a quandary until I came up with a plan. I explained that you were an old friend and that possibly you might oblige me with a favour. I suggested that I invite you as guest of honour to our next meeting. This meeting will be a special wine tasting night. Each of the six candidates will, in advance, submit a bottle of home made wine to me. You would then taste these brews on the night, and score them. The maker of the vintage that receives your highest score will be selected as chairperson. Obviously other members of the society will wish to taste the vintages, but it is only your score that will count.

I do hope you will be able to accede to my request and attend our little tasting night at the church hall. The six candidates are a disparate lot. They are the lady of the manor, a magistrate colonel, an eccentric octogenarian, the local poacher, an unmarried mother, and a dairy farmer. Each is going to submit a bottle of wine to me. They are under strict instructions that they must not tell anyone what their wine is. Only I will know who has submitted which bottle. Wines may be of any type. The only criteria is that they must be no more than three years old.

I do hope you will be able to oblige me in this, and visit our little village. Of course I will gladly accommodate you at the rectory. You may even be able to get a story out of it for your “Sunday Snooze” column. Maybe something along the lines of “The state of home wine making in England today”.

Your old university friend,

Reverend Riesling
Temporary Chairman – Pinot Grigio Wine Making Society

EXTRACT FROM THE MORIO MUSKAT NEWS AND PINOT GRIGIO GAZETTE

MAGISTRATE POISONED DURING CELEBRITY WINE NIGHT

The recent monthly meeting of the Pinot Grigio Wine Making Society ended in tragedy when member Colonel Pigato was taken suddenly ill. He subsequently died.

The wine meeting was a special one, combining a tasting session with the selection of a new chairperson for the society. Marechal Foch, the celebrated wine expert, was in attendance and led the tasting session.

Colonel Pigato started the evening in ebullient mood, declaring that he would be chairman before the night was over. Later on he appeared to fall asleep. Just before Marechal Foch was due to reveal his tasting results, members of the society attempted to rouse the Colonel. It was then that they realised he had been taken ill. The meeting was immediately suspended and an ambulance called. Unfortunately he died on the way to hospital.

The post mortem indicates that death was caused by ingestion of a lethal amount of "Hemlock Nightshade", a very rare and highly poisonous plant. Police have begun a murder investigation.

A NOTE FROM REVEREND RIESLING TO MEMBERS OF THE PINOT GRIGIO WINE MAKING SOCIETY

My dear friends,

I am sure by now you have all received visits from the police concerning the terrible death of Colonel Pigato at last month's wine making society meeting. While the dreadful shadow of suspicion lurks over us, I suspect very few of you feel like imbibing. However I am persisting with this month's meeting in the church hall. I feel it is an ideal opportunity for us to all pool our knowledge and resources, and replay the scenes from the last sad meeting. Hopefully we will then be able to come to some conclusion as to how the Colonel met his death. My old friend Marechal Foch has already agreed to attend. I hope that you can make it too.

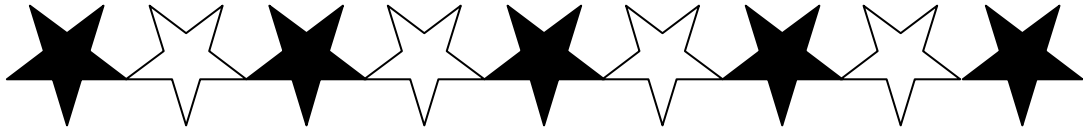
Best wishes,

Reverend Riesling

YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE THE ROLE OF



REVEREND RIESLING, 52,



VICAR OF ST PEPINS, PINOT GRIGIO.



I am Reverend Riesling, aged 52, vicar of the parish of Pinot Grigio.

I preach very powerful sermons. Over recent Sundays I have been basing my sermons on the ten commandments. I have preached on “Thou shall not steal” (*give a significant stare at Old Rollo*), “Thou shall not commit adultery” (*give a significant stare at Milly Merlot*) and “Thou shall not kill” (*give a significant stare at the whole group*). It grieves me to think that one of my flock failed to heed my word and committed this terrible crime.

When our former wine making chairman, Mrs Ava Tipple, left unexpectedly, six candidates applied to take over. In the secret ballot they all polled the same number of votes. I therefore came up with this little scheme to choose a winner. I knew Marechal Foch from my time as a student at Oxford University. I am happy to say that he agreed to come and host our little wine tasting competition and select the new Chairperson of the Pinot Grigio Wine Making Society. It is terrible that the evening should have ended in murder, and I think that we should use tonight’s meeting to try and discover what happened.

ABOUT THE VICTIM

Colonel Pigato, who lived at Old Hall, was born and bred in Pinot Grigio. A magistrate, Colonel Pigato enjoyed shooting and fishing. He also served on numerous village committees, and was always vociferous in declaring his opinion. His pompous and overbearing manner made him able to influence weaker members of these committees. A keen wine maker, the Colonel had his own hot house and grape vines. He also had very definite views about the future direction of the Pinot Grigio Wine Making Society. The Colonel had an almost rabid aversion to pink coloured wines.