



## Rare Reds - Sideways & Upright

*Wineries to visit: Colaneri Estates Winery, Coyote's Run Estate Winery, Château des Charmes and Niagara College Teaching Winery*

Popularized in the feature film *Sideways*, Pinot Noir (also known as 'the heartbreak grape') has a reputation for being difficult. It's thin-skinned and moody if the elements aren't to its liking. It's a bit like the creative soul who takes to the sick bed when things go awry. But, we've developed a remarkable relationship with Pinot Noir, it thrives in our soils and climate and the grape delivers poetry in a glass. The wineries on this tour will give you a taste of the sublime. We've also included a stop where you can get to know a varietal unique only to one winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Gamay Droit. It's the creation of Paul-Michel Bosc: one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's pioneering visionaries.

**Coyote's Run Estate Winery** has won Pinot Noir of the Year for two years at the Canadian Wine Awards. The winery's unique terroir has two different soil types, red clay and black clay, and Pinot Noir is planted in both types. Whenever possible, the winery bottles Red Paw Vineyard and Black Paw Vineyard Pinot Noirs separately. You can taste for yourself the difference a soil makes.

**Niagara College Teaching Winery** has gained a reputation for making quality Pinot Noirs and has a loyal following amongst wine enthusiasts. The Pinot Noirs made by students under the direction of their professor/winemaker receive top honours and awards, as well as Dean's List distinction for outstanding quality.

**Colaneri Estate Winery** is the newest kid on the vineyard block, but already making a name for itself as a maker of outstanding rare reds, like Pinot Noir, in the traditional Italian style. *Virtuoso* is the winery's Pinot Noir and has been named as such because it is felt that, like music, an exquisitely crafted Pinot Noir entertains the senses. Taste it and other rare reds at the winery, which boasts a panoramic view of Niagara-on-the-Lake wine country.

There's a story behind Gamay Droit, 'Canada's first vinifera'. In 1982, **Château des Charmes'** founder, Paul-Michel Bosc, while conducting pioneering clonal research in his Niagara-on-the-Lake vineyard, noticed a single Gamay Noir vine exhibiting some interesting characteristics. Most noticeable, the vine shoots grew in an upright ('droit') position. Propagation of this single vine began immediately and culminated almost two decades later in the granting of international Plant Breeder's Rights to Château des Charmes. Gamay Droit produces grapes that ripen later than Gamay Noir with higher sugar levels and colour. The result is a red wine with more body, alcohol and flavour concentration.