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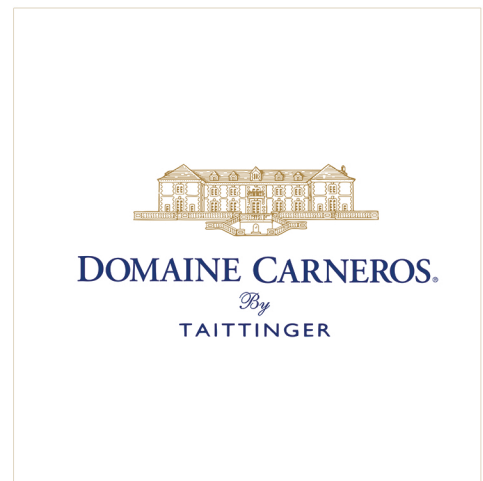
A New Era for American Sparkling Wine

As emerging and legacy domestic sparkling wine producers alike invest in quality and ageability, the U.S. market is ready to embrace a wider array of home-grown bubbly

BY BRIAN FREEDMAN | NOV 23, 2021

American sparkling wine has been a serious category since Jack and Jamie Davies brought Calistoga's old Schramsberg estate back to life in the mid-1960s. But in recent years, increasing attention to quality and versatility within the category has breathed new energy into American sparkling wine.

At the same time, changing consumer mindsets and Champagne supply shortages have allowed American sparklers to penetrate parts of the market that had primarily been occupied by their French counterparts. Producers have taken notice, resulting in an uptick in the number of winemakers crafting sparkling wine, the range of styles they're crafting, and the quality and ageability of the wines themselves.



Increasing Quality and Expanding Variety

This evolution of American sparkling wine makes sense, points out **Remi Cohen, CEO of Domains Carneros**—after all, the category is still relatively young. “There has definitely been an increase in quality in American sparkling wine, and there are also more producers who are willing to dedicate the time, capital, and patience required to make sparkling wine,” she notes.

Classics like Roederer Estate, J Vineyards, Domains Carneros, and Schramsberg Vineyards largely built their reputations on excellent sparkling wines—after all, many were founded by the families behind the great maisons of Champagne—but even producers that haven't traditionally been associated with bubbly have begun to focus on the category. Noted Sonoma Pinot Noir producer Donum Estate, for example, recently released its first-ever sparkling wine, a 2016 Blanc de Blancs built on estate-grown, old-vine Chardonnay.

