

Medium

PLANET the GRAPES

American Effervescence

Maggie Savarino | March 16, 2020

In which our correspondent finds comfort in domestic sparkling wines that pair well with social distancing.

I feel weird writing about bubbly while my city of Seattle is being left to contagion. Mostly I just want something to drink while I hunker down. Bubbly has never meant special occasion to me. I consider sparkling wine to be nature's cocktail, albeit with a little nurture. Sparkling wine counts as a small luxury, essential to life, like good chocolate or a quality steak.

The most stylish "dressed up for a special occasion" bubbly is

Domaine Carneros Estate
Brut Cuvée from Taittinger

(\$35). Saying you like the sparklers from this California winery owned by the French Champagne house for their unique elegance is like saying "Audrey Hepburn is a real style icon." A revelation to few, still a true statement. An apt analogy, as you've probably seen Taittinger's painted logo of a svelte woman in a backless black gown. Yeah, this wine is liquid that. So delicate and sweet fruited, the aroma reminds me of lime curd and spring flowers, and I still stand by my first crib sheet notes of it: "nectarine rhubarb tart." Which isn't a thing but should be. When you taste Champagne for a living, you notice its tailoring, its brushstrokes. I'd rather drink Domaine Carneros than cheap Champagnes; it's what 200 years of French technique can make with California grapes.



DOMAINE CARNEROS.

