

the drunken cyclist



I have three passions: wine, cycling, travel, family, and math.



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My Top Ten Wines From The Third Annual Blind Tasting of American Sparkling Wine

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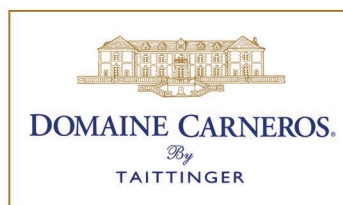
This past weekend, I conducted another Blind Tasting at our humble little abode here in Houston, to which I normally invite other wine writers from the area. This year, however, with the pandemic raging out of control here in Texas, I limited the attendees to my lovely wife (who has a fantastic palate) and me.

2015 Domaine Carneros Ultra Brut, Carneros, CA:

Retail \$46. 53% Estate Grown Chardonnay, 47% Estate Grown Pinot Noir. Pale straw, with just a splash of yellow, and a very interesting nose that caused me to pause for more than a moment.

There is a pleasant sweet mocha or smokey caramel kind of vibe here, which is not usually a descriptor one uses in evaluating sparkling wines. And that's OK. The palate is surprisingly more mainstream, with a driving tartness and lovely balance. While this is not my favorite in the flight, it is not far from the top. Really nice.

EXCELLENT. 91 POINTS.



My Top Ten Overall

- 1) **NV Domaine Carneros Cuvée de la Pompadour Brut Rosé (\$45)**
- 2) 2016 Stoller Pinot Noir Legacy LaRue's Brut Rose (\$65)
- 3) 2016 Brooks Sparkling Riesling (\$55)
- 4) 2015 Mumm Napa Devaux Ranch (\$50)
- 5) 2013 Domaine Carneros Le Rêve (\$125)
- 6) 2014 Mumm Napa DVX Rosé (\$80)
- 7) NV Mumm Napa Blanc de Blancs (\$24)
- 8) 2018 Iris Vineyards Areté Brut Rosé (\$34)
- 9) 2017 Korbel Natural Méthode Champenoise (\$16)
- 10) NV Piper Sonoma Brut Réserve (\$22)

