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## Why Your Next Bottle of Sparkling Wine Should Be From Sonoma

*Among winemakers in Sonoma County, the latest buzz is all about sparkling. Here are the wineries to watch and the bottles to buy now.*

By [Lettie Teague](#) | May 10, 2019

When Merry Edwards sold her eponymous Sonoma estate to Louis Roederer Champagne a few months ago, it came as a shock to many in the wine world. The 71-year-old winemaker has long been synonymous with Russian River Valley Pinot Noir and enjoys a devoted following for her wines. And yet the arrival of the prestigious Champagne house actually coincides with a strong Sonoma sparkling trend.

I wondered how winemakers at long-established sparkling-wine houses such as **Domaine Carneros** (which sources fruit from both Sonoma and Napa) felt about the influx of so many new entrants in the sparkling realm. When I put the question to T.J. Evans, a longtime winemaker at Domaine Carneros, he recalled a scene from a Monty Python movie. “The character is ‘approaching on horseback’ yet stays on the horizon, never getting any closer, while the music gets more and more dramatic,” he wrote in an email. In other words, he thinks the buzz is currently bigger than the actual output of bubbly.



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