

WINE ENTHUSIAST[®]

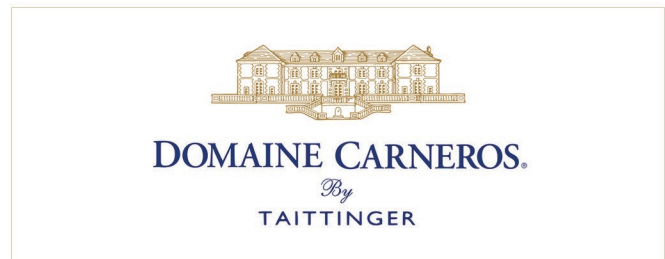
Red and White Grape Wine Blends are More Common Than You Think

BY ROGER MORRIS

Making wine by blending white and red grapes is not as rare as you might think. Several of the world's most esteemed wines have been made this way for centuries. And some daring modern winemakers produce unusual, color-blended wines with vivid results. Among the most common traditional color blends is Champagne, which generally combines Chardonnay, a white grape, with red Pinot Noir and/or Pinot Meunier.

“Red and white components are needed to build Champagne because one grape will dominate the other for a few years, and then it will step back into a supporting role to enhance the other grapes,” says Alice Paillard, whose family owns Champagne Bruno Paillard.

Eileen Crane, CEO and winemaker at Domaine Carneros in Napa, says that many sparkling wines feature red and white grapes.



Eileen Crane, CEO of Domaine Carneros.

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