

Wine Spectator

www.winespectator.com

TASTING REPORTS

Celebrate Summer

Across the globe, high quality sparkling wines are more affordable than ever

By **Keith Newton** ■ From the Jun 30, 2020, issue

The mystique of sparkling wine is often attached to an air of inaccessibility. Bubbles in the glass evoke images of glamorous parties and special occasions. But sparkling wine can offer everyday enjoyment as well. Sparklers make ideal accompaniments to a range of foods, enlivening a weeknight dinner or Sunday brunch. Cost doesn't need to stand in the way. Producers around the world are making well-priced offerings in an array of styles. As warmer weather arrives, the pleasure of popping the cork on a bottle of bubbly is a joy not to be missed.

CALIFORNIA

The Golden State has long been the undisputed leader when it comes to the production of bubbly in the United States. A number of the estates on this list trace their origins back to Europe, having been founded by some of the great sparkling wine houses of France and Spain. But no matter their roots, California sparklers have a distinctive style all their own, balancing richness and vibrancy while delivering streams of expressive fruit flavors. Chalk it up to the unique terroirs of Carneros and Russian River Valley, among other key regions, and to the ripeness of the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir that generally make up the blends—and then enjoy the bounty.



DOMAINE CARNEROS.
By
TAITTINGER

92 DOMAINE CARNEROS

Brut Rosé Carneros Cuvée de la Pompadour NV

Refined and vibrant, featuring strawberry blossom, peach and spicy cinnamon flavors that take on richness on the long finish. \$37 (T.F.)



CHARLES COMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATES, LLC