

Napa Valley Register

Please The Palate

Pam Starr: Driven by terroir with a craving for Cabernet

Allison Levine Mar 27, 2018

Crocker & Starr

"When I want to fill my soul, I drink Cabernet Sauvignon. It is a wine with both spirit and soul. It talks about where it comes from. As I put my nose in the glass, the aromas unfold. The palate entices as it unfolds. Fruit flavors, herbs, earth, tannin and acid, Cabernet Sauvignon gives a full-bodied soul bursting presentation."

This is how winemaker Pam Starr described her beloved Cabernet Sauvignon as we were enjoying glasses of wine over dinner.

As much as she loves Cabernet, even more important to her is terroir.

Starr was raised in Palos Verdes in Southern California. Her father, a surgeon, and mother, a nurse, are originally from mid-west Canada and were not wine drinkers. But her upbringing is what led her to wine.

A product of multi-influences, Starr described her childhood as a



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Starr returned to California with the intention to make wine that reflected the terroir. In 1991, she moved from Sonoma to Napa to work as the winemaker at Spottswoode.

New to Napa, S
curiosity had h
up in the Crocker
purchased the
Starr contacted
white Bordeaux

"Each of the Crocker & Starr Cabernet Sauvignons is different and it is not because of the winemaker's hand. As Starr explained, "the diversity lies under the ground where you cannot see it" and, as a result, her wines are driven by terroir."

Starr described how diverse the soil is within the organically farmed vineyard. To demonstrate this, he opened three Cabernet Sauvignons. All three wines are 100 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and come from the same vineyard but due to climate, soil types and grape clones, each wine is unique and identifiable.