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MAGAZINE

Napa's Domaine Carneros Secures a Sparkling Future With New CEO Remi Cohen

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Remi Cohen took the reins as CEO of Napa's Domaine Carneros in August, 2020, mid-pandemic. The chateau, perched high atop a hill in the Carneros region bridging southern Napa and Sonoma counties, is a local landmark, part of the heritage of a brand owned by a renowned French sparkling wine house, Taittinger. Cohen stepped into the CEO role after the previous CEO, Eileen Crane, retired. Crane ran the show for the past 33 years, but stayed on through the 2020 harvest and blending of the 2020 cuvées.

In any business, that kind of support can be invaluable.

I was mentored mostly by men because there are still only a small number of women available to be mentors. At Champagne Taittinger, Vitalie Taittinger (president of Champagne Taittinger and daughter of Pierre-Emmanuel) is the head of the winery now. She truly supports female leadership.

What has surprised you most about the role or the estate?

Eileen's parting gift was to establish this Estate vineyard with amazing bubbles, female leadership, and these incredible employee engagement programs. The CEO title is the cherry on top. Even though happened in middle of pandemic, it could not have worked out better. There is a true commitment of the families that own this business to think long term. You can feel that sense of stability amidst instability because of the strength of brand and the team and that starts with the families. Eileen is still here as a consultant. We both feel like everything has exceeded our expectations for each other.

