
San Francisco Chronicle

TOP 100 WINES 2008



Sparkling Wine

This year we kept a close eye on value in domestic sparkling wine. It's heartening to see that the quality of nonvintage blends is getting better than ever, though that makes us even more inclined to opt for the blended wines over more expensive vintage bottlings.

NV Domaine Carneros Cuvée de la Pompadour Carneros Brut Rosé (\$36)

Though the Domaine Carneros wines can sometimes feel a tad subdued, veteran winemaker Eileen Crane seems to have brought a bit more edge to the winery's fine rosé, which gives it lovely vibrancy. Clean notes of strawberry and peach are highlighted by a chalky mineral tone. Lifted acidity and the weight of 58 percent Pinot Noir fruit yields a wine with significant depth and versatility.
