



**Tue 31
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The Seventh Day of Christmas with American Sparkling Wine and Cider: Two Suggestions for New Year's Eve

Posted by Fredric Koeppel



DOMAINE CARNEROS.

DOMAINE CARNEROS BRUT 2016

Domaine Carneros is a destination in Napa Valley, its replica of a magnificent 18th Century chateau dominating a rise overlooking Highway 12, southwest of the city of Napa . The winery and its 138-acre parcel were established in 1987 by the well-known Champagne house of Taittinger. Eileen Crane has been winemaker at Domaine Carneros since the beginning. My suggestion for tonight is the Domaine Carneros Brut 2016, a blend of 50 percent chardonnay, 40 percent pinot noir and the balance a dollop of pinot gris that aged three-and-a-half years on the lees in bottle. The color is pure, pale gold, a-shimmer with a true fountain of glinting silver bubbles; this is a gratifying layered sparkling wine that starts with notes of lime peel, green apple and lemon balm, smoke and steel, and deepens into quince and ginger, lemongrass and lightly buttered cinnamon toast; it's crisp and bracing on the palate, electrified by bright acidity yet imbued with a lovely sense of creaminess and talc-like density; the finish is a perfectly poised and elegant affair of chiseled limestone and flint. 12 percent alcohol. This could certainly develop to 2026 or so.

Excellent. About \$33



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