

# Decanter

## Domaine Carneros: Tasting Le Reve

Elin McCoy | December 15, 2018

**2018 is the 20th anniversary of Domaine Carneros' first sparkling blancs de blancs, Le Reve ('the dream'), one of California's most expensive tete de cuvées.** It's aptly named – creating a great blanc de blancs in the state was the dream of Claude Taittinger of Champagne fame, and so he founded Domaine Carneros in 1987.



**What's unique about Domaine Carneros, though, is continuity:** Eileen Crane has been there since the beginning, arriving right after Claude Taittinger bought 56ha in Carneros and founded the brand with the Kobrand Corporation. Crane oversaw everything, from building a winery modeled on the Chateau de la Marquetterie, south of Epernay, to the winemaking. Domaine Carneros now produces eight excellent, vintage-dated sparklers made by the traditional method, but Le Reve has always been the winery's standout. It's fruitier and broader than Taittinger's Champagnes, but the tasting revealed that a thread of understated elegance and delicate sophistication runs through all the vintages – Crane calls it 'Audrey Hepburn style'. With age, the wines develop a mineral, toasty dimension and exceptionally long finish.



DOMAINE CARNEROS®

**Of the several dozen producers of sparkling wine in California, only a few... have as much finesse, complexity and longevity as Le Reve.**



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