

# Forbes

Spirits

## Getting Fresh On Valentine's Day

*These sparkling wines make a flirtatious statement*

Lana Bortolot | Feb 11, 2021

With most (if any) flirting taking place on virtual first dates or behind face masks, our first Valentine's Day in a pandemic calls for finding other ways to get fresh. Here are a few bottles that can help break the ice, warm the heart, or simply give you a fresh take during a time when we're All. So. Tired.

**Domaine Carneros Brut Rosé Cuvee Madame de la Pompadour.** The "youngest" in this trio of sister wines is named for Louis XV's paramour who was said to introduce sparkling wine to the courts. Pinot Noir-driven, it's a sprightly frolic, with a light expression of brioche, bright strawberries and young orchard fruit (fresh peach and cherries; \$38). Our panel tasted the middle sister wine, the **Brut Rosé 2017** (\$45), from two different glasses in the new Karen MacNeil (Wine Bible) line. In the "Creamy and Silky" glass—so contoured for round, rich wines, it was fleshy and ripe. True to its name, in the "Crisp and Fresh" glass, it was a leaner expression with notes of linen, steal and focused citrus. In either glass, it's a great food wine with concentrated strawberry and raspberry, savory notes. The ultra-sophisticated older sister **Le Reve 2015** (\$140) is an haute-couture blend with subtle spice notes, stone orchard fruit, elevated by a bit of guava and lychee—I wanted this with sweet-meated lobster tails. All three are reliable performers—deceptively light, but powerful.

