

the drunken cyclist



I have three passions: wine, cycling, travel, family, and math.



The Third (and final) Installment of my Chat with Remi Cohen of Domaine Carneros

Posted on [April 8, 2021](#)

In this last installment, we touched on how, with several sparkling wine houses in the U.S. changing ownership on a fairly regular basis, how Domaine Carneros has managed to remain owned by the Taittinger family:



2017 Domaine Carneros Pinot Noir Estate,

Carneros, CA: Retail \$44. A weird thing happened today, totally not by design—this is the second sample that I have tasted today where the following is true: I first tasted the 2018 vintage of this wine several months ago and am now on the previous iteration of the wine (OK, it might not *seem* all that “weird” but trust me, it is). I wrote the following for the 2018, which applies to this 2017 as well: “Co-owned by Champagne house Taittinger and American importer Kobrand, Domaine Carneros is perhaps the best domestic (U.S.) sparkling wine producer (I know I might catch some heat for that assertion, but I am willing to defend it). Unbeknownst to many, they also have a significant still wine program, which is about 15% of the entire production. This Estate Pinot Noir is the largest bottling in that still wine program and shows unequivocally that Domaine Carneros should be considered a top *still* Pinot producer as well.” While I certainly like this wine, too, it is not quite (only by a little) as impressive as its younger sibling. Great red fruit, eucalyptus, a hint of spice on the nose, with lovely fruit, a unifying tartness, and a smidge of earth on the palate.

FANTASTIC. EXCELLENT. 92 POINTS.



2018 Domaine Carneros Pinot Noir Estate, Carneros, CA:

Retail \$44. Co-owned by Champagne house Taittinger and American importer Kobrand, Domaine Carneros is perhaps the best domestic (U.S.) sparkling wine producer (I know I might catch some heat for that assertion, but I am willing to defend it). Unbeknownst to many, they also have a significant still wine program, which is about 15% of the entire production. This Estate Pinot Noir is the largest bottling in that still wine program and shows unequivocally that Domaine Carneros should be considered a top *still* Pinot producer as well. Dark cherry, pomegranate, and freshly tilled black earth on the nose, which almost garners a Whoa on its own. The palate confirms it: Whoa. Fruity, sure, but there are multiple layers of depth here, earth, a tangy acidity, length, all balanced by the unifying fruit. Whoa again. Do you have any idea how happy I am that I was sent two bottles? **OUTSTANDING. 94 POINTS.**

