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PEOPLE

Pop Stars: Remi Cohen

Domaine Carneros' second CEO is also its second female CEO. Cohen believes more can be done to mentor women leaders in wine.

By MaryAnn Worobiec ■ Dec 22, 2020

In August 2020, Remi Cohen was named CEO of **Domaine Carneros**, the sparkling wine house founded by Champagne Taittinger in 1987. She steps into some big shoes: Eileen Crane spent 33 years as the founding winemaker and CEO, and has been an inspiration to many women in the industry.

Cohen is well-qualified, having spent 20 years in wine, most of it in Carneros. She holds a BS in molecular and cellular biology from U.C. Berkeley, a master's degree in viticulture from U.C. Davis and an MBA in finance from Golden Gate University. Her work in Carneros began 20 years ago at Saintsbury. She has also worked at Bouchaine and Merryvale and owned her own vineyard management company. Prior to Domaine Carneros, she was COO at Lede Family Wines.

But she questions whether she could have gotten so far without the helpful mentors who pushed her, support she believes many women in the industry don't get. It's something she's hoping to help change.

WS: Outside of these initiatives, tell me more about kind of what you see for the future of Domaine Carneros and some of the things that you want to achieve.

RC: First of all, I have to say that the foundation is amazing, and I think the wines are awesome and his business is really healthy. It's an incredible place filled with amazing people. Everything has even exceeded my expectations as far as the wines the people and the business. I love the open management.

I'm building upon the transparency within the management that we do here, which will play into the employee engagement. Building out this mentorship program, building out this employee engagement program, modernizing the open book management and making it accessible to everyone, especially virtually these days. I was not aware when I first started interviewing that we have six estate vineyards. I also was not aware that Domaine Carneros was as progressive as it is in terms of the organizational structure with the transparency and leadership and employee engagement, nor was I aware that the business was super progressive with sustainability. For Eileen, that was a big focus from her from the beginning.

