



Paula Kornell



NAPA VARIETAL SERIES:

Sparkling Wine **FIZZY & BRIGHT**

BY JILLIAN DARA

There's nothing more celebratory than hearing a cork pop from a bottle of bubbles – even if not celebrating anything in particular, the bottle's opening is a marking in itself. That's what's so special about sparkling wine; it's a cornerstone of social events and momentous occasions, especially around the holidays.



Photo courtesy of Paula Kornell

PAULA KORNELL

As a fourth-generation sparkling wine producer, Paula Kornell is committed to producing Champagne-style wines in the Valley. Perhaps the best showing of this is the winery's Napa Valley Blanc de Noirs, created with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes grown at Mitsuko's Vineyard in Carneros. "Mitsuko's Vineyard is a magical place, named for Mitsuko Shrem, the co-founder of Clos Pegase Winery and a friend of Paula's mother," explained Robin Akhurst, sparkling winemaker at Paula Kornell. "Its proximity to the San Pablo Bay allows us to make wines with great acidity, balance, and backbone. The unique soils of the Carneros region give the complexity and intensity of our wines, making them feel alive and vibrant. It's not the easiest region to farm, but it produces the best grapes for great sparkling wine." Disgorged in January 2023, the 2020 Blanc de Noirs is 70 percent Pinot Noir and 30 percent Chardonnay, offering a crisp palate with notes of lemon, white peach, and a honeyed brioche finish. The winery also produces a California Brut, a Blanc de Blancs from Carneros Chardonnay (2023 first release), and a California Brut Rosé is lined up for 2024. // www.paulakornell.com

Press Coverage