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*Paula Kornell*

## UNITED STATES

**Paula Kornell, California (United States) Brut NV (\$22):** If ever a wine has a back story, it is this one.

Hanns Kornell was in a Nazi concentration camp for his political views, then expelled from the country. He made his way to the U.S., where he worked in wineries on both coasts before establishing Kornell Champagne Cellars in the Napa Valley in 1958 – then losing it all to bankruptcy in the early 1990s. Meanwhile, his daughter Paula made a name for herself in Napa Valley with various positions in the wine industry. Now she is carrying on the family name as a partner in her eponymous winery. In addition to this wine, there is a 2019 vintage Blanc de Blancs.

The brut is an interesting first release, made primarily with Chardonnay grapes and some Pinot Noir. Surprisingly, it tastes very much like a premium Prosecco – vibrant, with rounded Asian pear and creamy apple fruitiness and a persistent mousse in texture.

**91 Roger Morris** Feb 21, 2023

