

"My vision is simple - to produce great sparkling wine."



Paula Kornell, Founder/Vintner

REVIVING A NAPA VALLEY TRADITION BEGUN BY HER FATHER, PIONEERING WINEMAKER HANNS KORNELL OF HANNS KORNELL CHAMPAGNE CELLARS, PAULA KORNELL IS CARRYING ON THE FAMILY LEGACY IN HER OWN INIMITABLE WAY WITH PAULA KORNELL SPARKLING WINE. PAULA IS A FOURTH-GENERATION SPARKLING WINE PRODUCER WHO IS REDEFINING TRADITION WITH WINES THAT ARE AFFORDABLE, DELICIOUS AND FUN, AS WELL AS VERSATILE AND ELEGANT.

Hanns was an early advocate of Méthode Champenoise sparkling wines in the Napa Valley. The launch of Paula's own wine brand in partnership with Vintage Wine Estates brings her full circle. No longer the little girl who sold prunes, walnuts and peacock feathers in front of the family tasting room, she is a consultant and community leader with 30-plus years of experience in the wine industry. As principal of Kornell Wine Company, Paula has consulted with esteemed wine brands and appellations throughout Napa and Sonoma Counties.

Launching in 2017, Paula Kornell Sparkling Wine offers a California Brut and Napa Valley Blanc de Noirs, and plans to release a Napa Valley Blanc de Blancs and California Brut Rosé in the coming years. The grapes for the Napa Valley wine come from the historic Mitsuko's Vineyard in Carneros, which is in the process of being sustainably certified.

Deeply connected to her community, she chaired the 1992 Napa Valley Wine Auction, now known as Auction Napa Valley, and served as a co-chair in 2005 and again in 2019. She was the 2009 president of the Board of Directors for the Napa Valley Vintners, filling a position her father held 45 years before. She is currently on the Board of Napa Humane. Paula creates camaraderie through hospitality. It's in her genes.





ROBIN AKHURST, WINEMAKER



A NATIVE OF SCOTLAND, ROBIN AKHURST'S WINEMAKING CAREER TOOK HIM AROUND THE GLOBE BEFORE ARRIVING IN NAPA VALLEY, WHERE HE HAS BEEN LEARNING THE INS AND OUTS OF CALIFORNIA'S TERROIR SINCE 2009. He'S NOW DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING FOR NAPA AND SONOMA FOR VINTAGE WINE ESTATES, WHICH INCLUDES OVERSEEING THE WINEMAKING FOR CLOS PEGASE, SWANSON VINEYARDS AND HIS OWN BRANDS, APSARA CELLARS AND LIBRARY COLLECTION WINES.

ROBIN'S PASSION FOR WINE BEGAN IN RESTAURANTS, FIRST WORKING AS A SOMMELIER IN EDINBURGH, THEN IN RETAIL, WORKING FOR ONE OF LONDON'S LEADING INDEPENDENT WINE MERCHANTS. MOTIVATED BY THE DESIRE TO LEARN ALL ASPECTS OF PRODUCTION, ROBIN MOVED TO NEW ZEALAND WHERE HE EARNED A POST-GRADUATE DEGREE IN VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY FROM LINCOLN UNIVERSITY IN CHRISTCHURCH. HE CAME TO THE NAPA VALLEY AFTER WORKING HARVESTS IN LANGUEDOC, MARLBOROUGH, BURGUNDY AND THE BAROSSA VALLEY.

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