

39th Annual l'Eté du Vin Vintner's Tasting
Celebrating Women in Wine
Tasting Notes

Taittinger Prestige Rosé NV

Taittinger Prestige Rosé immediately stands out for its intense, shimmering hue whose secret lies in the fact that it is a blend, which is more complex and costly to produce.

The intense and brilliant body is bright pink in color. The bubbles are fine, and the mousse persistent. The full nose, wonderfully expressive, is both fresh and young. It gives off aromas of red fruits (freshly crushed wild raspberry, cherry, blackcurrant). On the palate, this wine strikes a fine balance of velvety and full-bodied. The flavors are reminiscent of fresh, crisp red fruits. The palate can be summed up in four words: lively, fruity, fresh and elegant, as only a rosé blend can be.

Presented by Vitalie Taittinger

Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blanc 2006

Produced only in exceptional vintage years and intended as the ultimate expression of the Taittinger style, this wine is composed entirely of Chardonnay grapes grown in the top vineyards of the prestigious Côtes des Blancs using only the first press juice.

This vintage has a fine and delicate nose which combines white blossom and a certain minerality with general overtones of Anjou light pear and golden raisins. The taste is vibrant, with a combination of lemon and saltiness. This is immediately followed by a sensation of complex, yet mellow freshness creating the perfect balance between ripeness and a full-rounded flavor. This elegant wine lives up to its reputation with its freshness, strength, minerality and mellow fruitiness. Its freshness encapsulates a certain moment in time and promises interesting cellaring potential.

Presented by Vitalie Taittinger

Spottswoode Sauvignon Blanc 2017

In a vintage of such extreme heat, Spottswoode was able to craft a wine that is ripe and textured, yet still retains its freshness – a notable achievement!

This wine is mouthcoating and viscous, with a balancing acid tension and great mouth-watering juiciness. The beauty is there aromatically, with an initial impression of lime zest, lemon pith, and citrus blossom. It then opens to white peach, nectarine, mandarin, cream, with hints of vanilla and lime curd, both on the nose and on the palate. Rich and texturally enticing, with great balance and length.

Presented by Lindy Novak

Crocker & Starr AVA Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc Blend 2017

Crocker & Starr AVA Napa Valley wines gather the best from their estate and neighboring Napa Valley estates to create wines of complexity and balance. This appellation blend is framed from classic Bordeaux blends but all Napa Style, designed for wine lovers and collectors.

A very pleasing pale yellow color greets the eye and aromas of honey suckle flowers, lychee, lime leaves, and jackfruit immediately jump through the glass. The texture is smooth and creamy with the perfect amount of acid that keeps you wanting more. The Semillon brings “jelly” to the more austere Sauvignon!

Presented by Pam Starr

Marimar Estate Acero Chardonnay 2016

Acero is the Spanish word for steel and it refers to the fact that this wine has never seen any oak. Especially selected for fruit intensity and aromatics, the grapes are fermented in stainless steel to capture the purity of the flavors. Grapes for this wine are grown in the Don Miguel Vineyard, named after the late patriarch of the Torres family. It is located in the Green Valley — the coolest, foggiest region of the Russian River, only ten miles from the Pacific.

The Acero Chardonnay offers engaging, intense aromas of Golden Delicious apple, classic of this wine, with refreshing notes of citrus and vibrant acidity. On the palate it is savory, with scents of fresh herbs like lemongrass in the summertime. The finish is long and creamy. Easy to drink and perfect with foods like tapas, seafood and light dishes.

Presented by Marimar Torres

Marimar Estate Mas Cavalls Pinot Noir 2014

This bottling is named Mas Cavalls after the Catalan name for Horse Farm, since the equestrian center lies right below the Doña Margarita Vineyard. Named after the late matriarch of the Torres family, this 20-acre vineyard is located on the Bohemian Highway, between Freestone and Occidental, in the Sonoma Coast appellation. The cool breezes and drifting fog from the Pacific Ocean, six miles away, make it an ideal site for Pinot Noir.

Engaging aromas of raspberry jam, blueberries and cassis, plus a background of forest floor classic from this vineyard. On the palate it is round, complex and well balanced, with firm tannins that promise a long life.

Presented by Marimar Torres

Bonaccorsi Sebastiano Pinot Noir 2012

2012 Sebastiano Vineyard: A very special vineyard close to Jenne Lee's heart as it was planted with specific winemakers in mind. A handful of winemakers were consulted before the planting and were given the section and the clones to choose. Jenne Lee selected the Swan clone as it is not a readily available pinot noir clone in the Central Coast. This wine is mostly Swan clone and some Mt Eden as well. Aged for 20 months in 50% new oak, without any fining or filtering as with all Bonaccorsi wines.

Darker ruby color, medium to full concentration. Earthy nose of fertile soil and ripe red berries. Palate of cherries, toffee and coffee. Supple with a medium body and a mocha tinged finish.

Presented by Jenne Lee Bonaccorsi

Spottswoode Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

This wine is everything a good Napa Cabernet can be: powerful, refined, and delicious. Give it 5 years and watch it sing. Inky garnet in the glass, this wine smells of cherry and tobacco leaf and a touch of pencil shavings. In the mouth, gorgeous and juicy flavors of cherry and tobacco and espresso are gripped in a muscular fist of fine-grained tannins. Fantastic acidity keeps the fruit juicy and the finish is long and aromatic with cedar and cocoa powder.

Presented by Lindy Novak

Staglin Family Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

2014 was another fantastic growing season. After one of the warmest and driest winters on record, as expected, budbreak was early. Even with a “normally” timed harvest window, because of the early budbreak, this vintage benefitted from an extended hangtime, allowing for an even and complete maturity of the decently sizable crop.

“The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate, from Staglin’s home Rutherford property, is bright and aromatically lifted, with a slightly redder expression of fruit and more floral overtones. A wine with lovely inner sweetness, finesse and aromatics, the Estate peaks to polish above all else. Historically, this wine has developed very well in bottle. I expect that will be the case here as well.” - Antonio Galloni, Vinous

Presented by Shannon Staglin

Crocker & Starr RLC Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

Named for the variations of rock, loam, and clay soils found throughout the St. Helena based Crocker Estate Vineyard, RLC is the embodiment of Crocker & Starr as a concept. Made using the exact same techniques as Crocker & Starr’s estate flagship Cabernet bottlings, RLC is a study in unique terroir. Fans familiar with Stone Place’s signature dark, brooding palate will enjoy RLC’s supple tannic structure, red cherry fruit, and lasting finish.

The 2014 RLC immediately smells like cherry pie, vanilla, pomegranates, anise and toasted walnut. The supple tannin structure, black red cherry fruit, savory sandalwood and long lasting finish makes this a great wine to drink right now.

Presented by Pam Starr