



Steppin' Out

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY LIVING



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FINE DINING & GOURMET RECIPES ♦ WINERIES AND MAPS ♦ ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LODGING AND RECREATION





And Then There Were *Trois*

Anderson Valley may be home to the one of the last remaining American dialects, known as Boontling, but the land echoes with a bit of a French accent, as it hosts three wineries belonging to the venerable eight-generation Roederer family from Champagne.

Commencing in 1982 with the founding of Roederer Estate, the family then expanded their wine interests by purchasing Scharffenberger Cellars in 2003, and recently founded Domaine Anderson in 2012. Although all three estates are distinct and vinify their wine at their own wineries, they share a spirit of meticulous winemaking that starts in the vineyard.

Roederer's first Anderson Valley property, **ROEDERER ESTATE** builds upon a centuries-old tradition of fine winemaking, specifically, sparkling wine, made in la methode Champenoise.

The family chose this spot back in 1982 for its ideal climate and conditions. The region's proximity to the

ocean gives rise to a gentle cycle of warm days and cool nights, allowing the grapes to mature slowly on the vine and develop full varietal character.

Consisting exclusively of pinot noir and chardonnay, Roederer Estate wine is aged an average of two and a half years on the lees for the multi-vintage Brut, and six years for the prestige cuvée, L'Ermitage.

What sets Roederer Estate apart from other California sparkling houses is that

each year oak-aged reserve wines are added to the year's cuvee.

The blending team is comprised of Roederer Estate winemaker Arnaud Weyrich, Jean-Baptiste Lecaillon of Champagne and Louis Roederer, ensuring that Roederer Estate remains the most French of the California sparklers.

SCHARFFENBERGER has been pioneering super premium Mendocino, California sparkling wine since 1981, with grapes sourced from Scharffenberger's own one hundred twenty acres of vineyards, as well as select vineyards throughout Mendocino County. Roederer purchased the winery in 2003 and maintains its original winemaking philosophy, to create stellar quality, delicious sparkling wines that reflect the diversity of the premier Mendocino County viticultural appellation. Under winemaker Tex Sawyer's guidance, who has been producing Scharffenberger Cellars wine since 1989, the wines are made in the méthode traditionnelle—the wines are individually bottle-fermented before being riddled and disgorged. Full malolactic fermentation creates a wine with round complex flavors and full body.

DOMAINE ANDERSON In the two hundred forty years that the Roederer family has been producing sparkling wine, this is the very first time the family has founded a winery de-

voted exclusively to still wine, premium Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. The domaine consists of the seventeen-acre Biodynamic® and organic certified Dach vineyard (where the winery is located) as well as thirty-three additional acres throughout the Anderson Valley's diverse microclimates, from cool, dark Navarro to warm and sunny Boonville. The philosophy of the Domaine Anderson wine is to reflect the refined terroir of its origins and create a balanced, elegant wine. Much investment and energy is poured into the vineyards to maintain the health and sustainability of the land. Winemaker Darrin Low, formerly of Flowers and Grgich Hills, uses a minimal interventionist approach to winemaking, to ensure that the meticulously woven story from the vineyard translates to what lies in the glass.

Domaine Anderson graces over four hundred fifty wine lists of top restaurants throughout the country, such as white-hot Agern in New York City, 2-Michelin star Atelier Crenn in San Francisco and famed Spago Beverly Hills. Because of limited production (4800 cases) the estate and single vineyard wines – six labels in all are not sold through retail, but can be purchased through the wine club and at the tasting room. Select estate wines are sold through the website. All three tasting rooms are located on Highway 128 are open to the public.



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