

USA

- Sparkling wine made in 19th C.
- **Schramsberg** BdB Chard 1965.
- 1970s Champagne & Cava producers started making trad method wines. E.g. **Dom Chandon** (Moët & Chandon), **Quartet**, Roederer.
- Styles: Trad method, tank method & Pet Nat.
- Most California, also Oregon & Washington State.

Traditional Method

- Chard & PN, Meunier used but rare.
- Typically Brut style.

Med intensity aromas, ripe apple & lemon, brioche / biscuit, med + acidity. Good to Outstanding. Mid – super premium priced.

Tank Method

- Additional fruit flavours, raspberry, peach etc.
- Often extra-dry style, noticeable RS.
- Inexpensive to mid-priced.

Growing Environment, Climate & Grape Growing

California. Traditional

- Coastal regions, cooled by Atlantic Ocean via fog & breezes along river valleys, gaps in mountains.
- Conditions for Chard & PN to ripen, retain high acidity & moderate alcohol. Good for trad meth sparkling.
- **Anderson Valley** (Mendocino County). Cool Pacific fog & breeze along Navarro Valley – modify temp & reduce sunshine. Also wide diurnal range – retain high acidity. **Roederer Estate – Quartet**. Mostly still wine but produce sparkling too. Grape sold for sparkling.
- **Russian River Valley** (Sonoma County). Cooling via river valley & Petaluma gap in coastal mountains. **Korbel**.
- **Carneros** (Sonoma & Napa Counties). Not coastal but gets cooling from San Pablo Bay. **Gloria Ferrer (Freixenet) Dom Carneros (Tattinger)**.
- **Napa Valley** (Napa County). Mostly too hot for growing but wineries make sparkling with grapes from elsewhere. **Schramsberg**. Or blend with grapes from cooler regions.
- **Monterey** (Monterey County). Winkler & Amerine Heat Summation Scale – large areas zone 1-2. Wide Salinas valley open to a deep cold section of ocean = Cool areas & high diurnal range suitable for sparkling wine prod.

- **Edna Valley & Arroyo Grande** (San Luis Obispo County). Proximity to ocean therefore coolest AVAs.
- **Santa Maria Valley & Sta. Rita Hills** (Santa Barbara County). East west Santa Maria Valley & Santa Ynez Valley channel cool breezes & fog inland. Zones 1-2.

California. Tank

- Ch, PN also Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, SB & Viognier, Syrah & Tempranillo for tank method.
- Warmer regions pick early & may require RS to compensate for under ripeness.
- **Lodi** (San Joaquin County). Too warm inland for premium sparkling but produces tank method & flavoured. E.g. **Weibel**

Washington State. Traditional

- Second largest sparkling wine production. **Ste. Michelle** largest producer.
- Northerly latitude & high diurnal range – high acidity suitable for sparkling production.
- Chard, PN & M bends + single var: Mueller Thurgau, Riesling & Gewurztraminer.
- Styles: BdB, BdN.
- Mid-priced.

Oregon. Traditional

- Makes PN % Chard & now adding sparkling.
- Willamette Valley cool climate, slow ripening, retains acidity.
- **Argle** specialised, other wine makers use **Radiant Sparkling Wine** to triage, disgorge, bottle etc.

Wine making – Traditional

- Blend range of base wines, high acidity with riper fruitier.
- Many extended lees aging e.g. 3 years – adds to price.
- BdN from PN more common in USA, or add small proportion of white grapes. E.g. Schramsberg BdN has 10% chard.
- Many small wineries, make small batched sold at cellar door. Specialist Custom Crush facilities provide equipment & expertise to deliver trad method. E.g. **Rack & Riddle, Brut Custom Crush**.

Wine Business

- US Gov't allows use of term Champagne on pre 2006 if geographical origin is also stated.
- Specialist sparkling companies, often with Champagne or Cava houses behind. Distribution across USA. E.g. [Roederer](#).
- Small batch wine producers, premium, cellar door & direct. E.g. [Schramsberg](#).
- Large wine companies, larger range of inexpensive sparkling wines. National & int distribution. E.g. [Barefoot](#), [Cupcake](#).
- 2020 – 12.5M cases produced, 83% in Cali. Providing 45% of sparkling wine shipped in USA.
- Steady growth over 15 years, but Cali lost share to Prosecco.
- Millennials less loyal to US brands open to foreign authentic sparkling wines.

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