



Napa Valley

Sparkling

An Interview with Ludovic Dervin,
Winemaker, Mumm Napa



Ludovic Dervin

EDITORS' NOTE Ludovic Dervin became Winemaker at Mumm Napa in 2002. Dervin completed his wine-making studies in his native Champagne, France. His skills were refined during several harvests with the prestigious Champagne houses Charles Heidsieck and G.H. Mumm, as well as California's Piper Sonoma. Prior to joining Mumm Napa, Dervin polished his non-bubbly wine-making skills at the world-renowned Russian River wineries, Hartford Court and Gary Farrell.

COMPANY BRIEF Mumm Napa (mummnapa.com) is one of California's top sparkling wine producers and one of the most popular destinations

for wine country visitors. For more than 20 years, Mumm Napa sparkling wines have set the standard for California mode traditionnelle, emphasizing the exceptional qualities of Napa Valley fruit along with the casual elegance of the Napa Valley lifestyle.

How did you become a winemaker in California?

I traveled a lot in my 20s, immersing myself in different cultures and acquiring expertise in New World and Old World wine-making techniques. When I first came to California in 1992 to work the harvest, it made a lasting impression. I fell in love with the region and its people. Every ingredient for success was here to handcraft world-class wines. Years later, I was offered the position of Winemaker for Mumm Napa, and I couldn't pass on the opportunity to join the team.

Do Mumm Napa's techniques emulate those of French champagne producers?

Champagne can be produced only within the French region of Champagne. For centuries, French Champagne houses have perfected the elaborate process of crafting some of the greatest sparkling wines in the world. While we employ similar farming and wine-making techniques, we have adapted these traditional practices to take full advantage of the unique growing conditions of the Napa Valley, where the climate and soils give our grapes natural balance and beautiful flavors.

What are some perks of being a Mumm Napa Club Vivant member?

Mumm Napa's Club Vivant is designed for those who want to explore the world of fine sparkling wines in-depth. Members enjoy access to small-production wines not available in the distribution market. Our wine club shipments are fun and educational and include food and wine pairings along with a surprise gift. Plus, our members receive significant discounts on wine purchases at Mumm Napa and at mummnapa.com.

What else does Mumm Napa offer visitors?

Our outdoor patio lets visitors enjoy spectacular views of Napa Valley in a very relaxed setting. We have a world-class photography gallery that is one of Napa Valley's best-kept secrets. The gallery has a permanent Ansel Adams exhibit with more than two dozen works and a rotating exhibit featuring images from different photographers throughout the year. We also offer a winery-direct program to corporate clients looking for employee incentives and client appreciation gifts. ●

Editors' CHOICE

The Carneros Inn, Napa, California

IF YOU WERE TO ASK VISITORS TO CALIFORNIA WHAT THE TOP TOURIST attraction in the state is, most would correctly answer, "Disneyland." However, if you were then to ask what the second leading tourist attraction is, many would incorrectly offer San Francisco's Fisherman Wharf, the Golden Gate Bridge, or Alcatraz, or perhaps even the famous national parks – Yosemite and Sequoia. The correct answer is actually the Napa Valley wine region, located about an hour's drive northeast of San Francisco.

Visitors to the Napa Valley wine region have a variety of outstanding hotels and inns to choose from. Considered the finest establishment in the area is The Carneros Inn (www.TheCarnerosInn.com), which is conveniently located on the Sonoma Highway, just outside the city of Napa.

The Carneros Inn, a PlumpJack Resort, offers guests 86 individual private cottages, including 10 luxurious suites and 15 large private homes that feature two master suites, a large kitchen and den, and at least three baths. All of the cottages, suites, and private homes are situated on a beautiful 27-acre setting with magnificent views. Located near the smaller communities of Yountville, Oakville, Rutherford, St. Helena, Angwin, and Calistoga, The Carneros Inn is within a short driving distance to more than 200 wineries – approximately 100 of which offer walk-in wine-tasting hours.

In addition to the delicious food and great selection of Napa Valley wines served at its signature restaurant, FARM, as well as at its Hilltop Dining Room and Boon Fly Café, The Carneros Inn has an award-winning spa and fitness center, two outdoor swimming pools, and a general store.

For corporate conferences or executive meetings, The Carneros Inn offers visitors over 5,000 square feet of meeting and event space, including ballrooms, trellised courtyards, and private dining facilities.

The Carneros Inn offers guests the perfect opportunity to relax and unwind and leaves visitors to the wine country feeling refreshed and wishing they could stay a bit longer. ●



A guest cottage at The Carneros Inn