

Marin Independent Journal



COURTESY OF MARIMAR TORRES

Sausalito's Marimar Torres created a new sparkling wine produced with pinot noir grapes.

Spring's a time for bright, fruity, lively wines

Now that the weather has warmed up, our thoughts naturally turn to refreshment. Specifically, liquid refreshment. But not the big full-bodied tastes of winter encapsulated most often in red wine, be they really big like cabernet sauvignon, or nominally big like



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pinot noir.

Almost all red wine goes through a process called malolactic fermentation, where the tart acidity of wine's natural malic acid is converted by bacteria into lactic acid, resulting in a mellower and creamier taste. Much California chardonnay is also so treated, yielding so-called "buttery" white wines.

But spring will have none of that. The most sought-after drinking wines of spring are usually bright, fruity and lively affairs (if not outright bubbly ones like sparkling wine). Luckily for all of us, wine producers also know this. To wit, four new wines from Marin-based producers, or produced from Marin County fruit. All sure to spring into a glass near you soon.

• 2017 Marimar Estate Dona Margarita "blanc de noir" sparkling wine, \$48.

Last year, Sausalito resident Marimar Torres (scion of the Spanish wine family Torres) released her first rosé wine. This year the pioneer of lively fresh European-style California wines has outdone herself with a new sparkling wine produced with pinot noir grapes ("blanc de noirs" means a white wine made from red-skinned grapes). Sourced from her Dona Margarita in the Sonoma Coast appellation and named after her mother, this wine is made from the same grapes as her Mas Ca-

valls pinot noir. Méthode champenoise production (primarily secondary bottle fermentation, the same as Champagne) produces a barely — and we mean barely — pink wine buoyed by bright strawberry notes and great balance. Released appropriately on Mother's Day, this delicious wine is sure to set a new benchmark for familial celebrations and beyond. Only available through their wine club, this small batch wine (269 cases) is sure to sell out. More information at marimarestaterestate.com.