



2015 Sea Smoke Sea Spray Sparkling Wine

Forbes.com

“Show Your Love With American Sparkling Wine This Valentine’s Day”

“American sparkling wine has grown from a small group of producers into a kinetic exciting industry. Each year brings more winemakers willing to take on the challenges of crafting sparkling wine the exact same way they make it in Champagne (known as Méthode Champenoise). The American sparkling pioneers... continue to craft exceptional examples of sparkling wine. But, there are many more made-in-America sparklings out there to try, below is a list to get you started.

2015 Sea Smoke ‘Sea Spray’ Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Wine

Grapes harvested from the cooler climate sites in Sta. Rita Hills get the star treatment with 12 months of sur lie aging in barrel and an additional 36 months of aging *en tirage* (or in the bottle). The palate sings with ripe berries, warm toasty bread notes, pearly effervescence and a marvelous mineral core.”

-Katie Kelly Bell, February 2021

Wine Review Online

“Unique Sparklers”

“More famed for its Pinot Noir, especially since a 2004 movie in which it got a full-screen label shot, **Sea Smoke has been quietly making this sparkler for some time, and it’s always got something new to offer.** A fine mousse and mild salmon tinge provide initial attraction, and are followed by aromas of flowers, brioche, quince and a hint of honey. The crisp palate brings a mix of lime, strawberry and kiwi flavors that mingle in your head with the aroma notes, all finishing together with layered complexity. If you’re looking to go beyond the average sparkling wine profile, this is custom built for you.” **94 Points**

-Rich Cook, December 2020

Wine Enthusiast

“An aggressive and excited mousse lifts aromas of chalk, gardenia and tart apple on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a wide range of complexity, from steely minerality and pepper-like spice to citrus-splashed melon and mango.” **92 Points: Excellent; highly recommended**

-Matt Kettmann, May 2021

International Wine Review

“Selections from the Finest Wines Reviewed in 2021”

“Medium straw color. Showing a multifaceted bouquet of bread dough, yellow cherry, and lemon oil, this **beautiful, refined** Brut Rosé is very clean on the attack with a mineral led palate of buttered

almonds, dried apple, and toasty oak. **This is one of California's most elegant sparkling rosés** made from 100% Pinot Noir certified biodynamic. The base wine is aged sur lie in barrel, and the sparkling wine is matured 36 months on the lees with no dosage.” **94 Points**

-Donald Winkler, December 2021

News Break

“The Best North American Champagne Alternatives”

“We know it's only champagne if it's made in Champagne. But you just might mistake these méthode champenoise sparkling wines from North American wine regions for the real thing.

Sea Smoke

Not many wineries in Santa Barbara produce sparkling wine, but Sea Smoke in the Santa Rita Hills AVA proves that it can be done very well with the right microclimate. Their vineyards are situated on hillside bluffs, moderated by marine fog ‘sea smoke’ funneled in from the coast through the Santa Ynez River canyon each day. The cooling influence allows flavors and tannins to develop slowly, while preserving acidity, and the shallow clay soils reduce vine vigor, creating smaller grapes clusters with more concentrated flavors. ‘Our focus has always been the vineyard,’ says winemaker Don Schroeder. ‘It is the heart of everything we do, and it defines our wines.’ The 2015 Sea Smoke ‘Sea Spray’ Blanc De Noirs Sparkling Wine is made with 100% estate-grown pinot noir, with no dosage, to preserve the finesse and delicate complexity of the wine.”

-Amber Gibson, December 2020

The Colorado Springs Gazette

“Toast the new year with these sparkling options”

“Not surprisingly, the sparkling wine from **Sea Smoke, a highly regarded pinot noir specialist**, is all pinot noir. From sustainable and biodynamic estate vineyards in the Santa Rita Hills, the **2015 Sea Smoke ‘Sea Spray’ Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Wine** is a crisp, dry succulent wine of strawberries, and buttered toast.”

-Rich Mauro, December 2020

2014 Sea Smoke Sea Spray Sparkling Wine

PinotFile

“Moderate golden yellow color in the glass. Complex nose offering aromas of pear, pineapple, apple, hay, yeast and pistachio. Completely dry with an excellent mousse, offering flavors of quince, pear, white peach, green apple and roasted nuts. This excellent wine is ‘sparkling’ with excellent energy along with some finishing generosity and edgy cut.” **93 Points: Outstanding**

-Rusty Gaffney, July 2019

Forbes

“The wines below have been road-tested on many a date night in and have earned a mention on this list with their complexity, intrigue and depth--and who doesn't want a night of complexity, intrigue and depth?

2014 Sea Smoke L.D. ‘Sea Spray’ Sparkling Wine

Summer provender is ideal for crafting a meal that pairs with a bottle of sparkling—indeed, the beautiful thing about **an expertly crafted bubbly** is its ability to pair with just about any dish, and Sea Spray is no exception. Made from 100% Pinot Noir grown in the Sea Smoke Vineyard of Santa

Rita Hills, this is a zero dosage sparkling wine (which means no added sugar). Toasty buttery brioche notes with a distinct mineral edge keeping all of the pleasure in balance.”

-Katie Kelly Bell, June 2019

The Press Democrat

“A lovely sparkler with aromas of brioche and yeast, along with a generous dose of citrus and stone fruit. A lively mix of nectarine, mandarin orange and grapefruit. Refreshing, with bright acid. Nice length.” ★★★★★ **4/5 Stars; Highly recommended**

-Peg Melnik, December 2020

2012 Sea Smoke Sea Spray

Sunset

“New Favorites”

“Until recently, you’d find bottles from only a few West Coast wineries on the ‘domestic sparklers’ shelf. Now, many smaller wineries are making high-quality (Champagne method) sparkling wine. Here are **some of our favorites.**”

2012 Sea Smoke L.D. ‘Sea Spray’ Sparkling Wine

“A splurge, but smoky toast and tart Rainier cherries and cream are worth it.”

-Sara Schneider, September 2016

Wine Review Online

“This is a late disgorged release of a wine I reviewed last year – one that I absolutely loved. I love this version even more. The extra two years on the lees definitely kicks it up a notch. The additional time gives a depth to the yeasty character that adds real panache to the experience. You can find the rest of my notes in the archives on the regular 2012 bottle, but rest assured, this version is **one of the best bubbly in California.**” **97 Points**

-Rich Cook, December 2016

Mark Oldman on Twitter

“Rarely seen bubbly from **famed Pinot Noir producer Sea Smoke** - rich and hazelnutty, had my guests pawing the floor in pleasure.”

-Mark Oldman, September 2016

Forbes

“I have been swimming in a sea of spectacular sparklers recently, and bottlings from all over the world, with both famous and utterly obscure names on the labels, have won me over.

Sea Smoke, producer of much-sought-after Pinot Noirs, crafts ‘Sea Spray’, a stunning sparkling wine; their Late Disgorged 2012 Blanc de Noirs is no exception.

All of these and so many more are indicative of the brave new world of sparkling wine in the United States, and of the thankfully evolving ways in which consumers are considering them. It all makes sense: With their range of price points and unparalleled versatility at the table—the bubbles and generally mouthwatering acidity allow them to work well alongside a range of foods—sparkling wines have the potential to enhance any number of occasions, not just the luxurious or celebratory ones with which they have been associated for so long.”

-Brian Freedman, June 2016

Forbes

“American Sparkling Wine Is Set To Pop This Holiday Season”

“As Americans continue to become more comfortable enjoying sparkling wine not just on its own during cocktail hour, but as a normal part of their wine-drinking lives, the market for bubbly has grown substantially. It’s not just the most famous producers of American sparkling wine that are benefiting from this increased respect for bubbly. Indeed, some of the country’s top producers of still wines, whose reputations have been built by their reds and whites, have seen their sparkling stock rise.

Victor Gallegos, VP, GM, and director of winemaking at **Sea Smoke, which crafts highly sought-after Pinot Noirs** from the Santa Rita Hills AVA of California, explained in an email that, ‘We are not experts in the domestic sparkling market, but it seems to have experienced the same SKU proliferation as the wine market in general. With more top wineries making great domestic sparkling wines, and with these wines getting more and more positive attention, I do believe there is a growing willingness and comfort level among consumers to explore beyond their normal sparkling choices.’

Consumers who are willing to give Sea Smoke sparkling wine a chance are rewarded with **excellent bubbly**. The **2012 Sea Smoke L.D. Sea Spray Sparkling Wine** is full of the kind of biscuit-like notes that traditional-method sparkling-wine devotees enjoy, with added freshness from tart red cherry, hard peach, and distinct minerality.

Gallegos added, ‘One of the things that makes sparkling wines from the Sta. Rita Hills so fantastic is the region’s ability to develop substantial flavors even at the low Brix levels needed for sparkling production. This is important because the resulting fruitiness of the wine provides balance on the palate, particularly in no-dosage sparkling wines like ours.’”

-Brian Freedman, November 2016

The Press Democrat

“Five Gorgeous Wines”

“This delightful sparkler has a range – nectarine, yeast and melon. Bright acid. Finishes crisp. Striking.”

-Peg Melnik, July 2017

The Daily Meal

“Sea Smoke Offers Elegance Under Cork”

“Try whichever one of these wines you can get your hands on; it’ll be worth your time and your money.”

2012 Sea Smoke L.D. ‘Sea Spray’ Sparkling Wine

“The fruit for this sparkling wine was all hand-picked from their estate vineyard. Thine wine was produced using the methode champenoise method. After nine months aging sur lie it was aged in bottle for 24 months en tirage before disgorging. White flowers and freshly baked brioche aromas emerge from the nose. Lemon zest, Anjou pear and bits of spice are in evidence on the deep and layered palate. Bits off laky biscuit and white pepper spice emerge on the long, elegant and somewhat lusty finish. This is a delicious and attractive sparkling wine that will elevate any meal or an occasion it’s part of.”

-Gabe Sasso, April 2016

PinotFile

“Sea Smoke Estate Vineyard has been considered one of California’s most exceptional vineyards. Each evening a layer of marine fog (“sea smoke”) funnels up the Santa Ynez River canyon, cooling the vines and extending the growing season. The entire vineyard has been farmed biodynamically since 2013. Meticulous farming techniques include managed deficit irrigation, suckering and shoot thinning, cluster thinning post fruit set, green drop and wing removal on remaining clusters.”

2012 Sea Smoke L.D. ‘Sea Spray’ Sparkling Wine

“Lovely delicate pinkish orange color in the glass. The nose is searching and complex, offering scents of yeasty lees, salty ocean, peach pit, walnut oil, and subtle cherry and raspberry fruits. Tremendous vibrancy in the mouth with a lively bead, offering flavors of peach, orange water, dried cherry, cranberry and brioche. Thoroughly dry, with noticeable persistence of flavors on the soprano finish that delivers a tight grip of acidity. This wine calls out for foie gras.” **94 Points:**

Extraordinary

-Rusty Gaffney, March 2016

Forbes

“Best Champagnes And Sparkling Wines For Holiday Celebrating”

“Bubbles pair with just about everything--from sushi to steak--and they go especially well with parties. Sparkling wine has continued its stunning upward trajectory in the market, but this should really be no surprise because people love fizz. Global selection and quality have never been better so consider buying a bottle of bubbles you’ve never tried before.”

2012 Sea Smoke L.D. ‘Sea Spray’ Sparkling Wine

“Crafted from Pinot Noir grown in California’s Santa Rita Hills. Fine luminous bubbles--mouthwatering, but rich and savory with high notes of raspberry sorbet. Refreshing crispness.”

-Katie Kelly Bell, December 2015

Restaurant Wine

“Wines & Wineries to Watch”

“Remarkable California sparkling wine. Light copper color. Rich and complex in aroma, with baked bread, plum, lemon peel, and ripe grape character. Supple and quite rich on the palate, with firm acidity, a long palate evolution, and a crisp, persistent finish. Tastes much like a fine Champagne. Aged 9 months in French oak barrels, and two years on the yeast.” **5 Stars: Exceptional**

-Ronn Wiegand, December 2016

Wine Review Online

“California also produces stellar sparkling wines, as evidenced by the bottlings from...and Sea Smoke. There is no debating the excellence of these wines.”

-Linda Murphy, December 2014

Wine Enthusiast

“Hailing from **one of the appellation’s most celebrated vineyards**, this ever-so-slightly pink wine delivers high and tight aromas of pink grapefruit, bubblegum and yeast. The creamy fizz shows ripe nectarine at first, then alkalinity, lime zest and grapefruit pith show up to keep the party in order.”

92 Points; Excellent; Highly recommended

-Matt Kettmann, May 2015

Wine Review Online

“Today’s Featured Wine”

“I loved the 2011 version of ‘Sea Spray’, and I think this wine is even better. No one else is making a Blanc de Noir like this domestically, and this would easily fool your ‘Champagne only’ friends. Very delicate on the nose, it shows fig, strawberry, light flowers and filo dough. Seamless translation of the aroma profile is enhanced by the addition of bright citrus and faint pippin apple. A fantastic, no dosage added bottle of bubbly that is suitable as a gift for someone important - like you and your spouse and that weekend you've been promising each other!” **96 Points**

-Rich Cook, December 2014

Wine Review Online

“Coastal Pinot Noir, Still and Sparkling”

“Most recently, my coastal wine enthusiasm was sparked by two Pinot Noirs and a sparkling rosé from Sea Smoke, an estate winery situated in the western end of the Sta. Rita Hills AVA, in Santa Barbara County. I had tasted the Pinot Noirs many times before, going back to the 2005 vintage, when the estate vineyard was only six years old. As the vineyard has matured, the Pinots seem to have grown into themselves, becoming more expressive and nuanced. The delicious sparkling wine, made entirely from Pinot Noir, is further testimony to the quality and expressiveness of the estate fruit.

Sea Smoke’s current release sparkling wine is **2012 ‘Sea Spray’ L.D.** It is a classic-method (second fermentation in the bottle), rosé, brut-style wine made entirely of Pinot Noir. A few aspects of its production are unusual. The first fermentation occurs in stainless steel, but then the wine ages in French oak barrels (once-used and older) for nine months on its fermentation lees to create a base wine with enhanced flavor, texture and character. After bottling, the re-fermentation and aging process lasts 24 months before the bubbly is disgorged. Altogether, the wine ages 33 months, a normal period for classic-method sparkling wines, but the aging of the base wine is longer than usual. Perhaps for that reason, ‘Sea Spray’ is a very ‘winey’ sparkler, rich in precision red berry fruit and floral notes rather than toasty notes from yeasts. At 9 grams/liter of dosage, it is dry but it is also enticingly fruity. This is a classy, refined sparkling wine that strikes me as quintessentially Pinot Noir and undeniably Californian.” **92 Points**

-Mary Ewing-Mulligan, March 2016

Vinography

“I’m pleased to bring you the latest installment of Vinography Unboxed, where I highlight some of the better bottles that have crossed my doorstep recently.”

2012 Sea Smoke L.D. ‘Sea Spray’ Sparkling Wine

“Medium gold with a hint of copper and medium fine bubbles, this wine smells of wet leaves and mashed berries. In the mouth, a voluminous mousse delivers flavors of burnt orange peels, dried apples and cherry, mixed with a touch of dried flowers and oak. Burnt citrus peel and a bitter woody note linger in the finish. Good acidity.”

-Alder Yarrow, December 2017

Wisconsin Gazette

“Location critical for Sea Smoke wines”

“Great wine starts with great grapes, and that means grapes planted in the right location, grown and harvested under the proper conditions, and then passed into the hands of talented winemakers. At **Sea Smoke Estate Vineyards**, in California’s sprawling Santa Barbara County, topography is

critical to setting the high-end vineyard's wine apart from its peers, according to Victor Gallegos, the winery's director of winemaking. In fact, the contours of the land are among the vineyard's most distinctive and influential features.

The net result of the longer growing season, as well as a cooperage program that utilizes new and used French oak in differing combinations, yields pinot noir and chardonnay varietals of exceptional quality."

2012 Sea Smoke L.D. 'Sea Spray' Sparkling Wine

"Gallegos and his team also produce sparkling wine, and the 2012 L.D. 'Sea Spray' is a lighter and brighter pinot noir, with a more floral nose and the suggestion of pastries on the palate. 'Sea Spray' spends nine months in oak, compared to 16 months each for the previously mentioned wines."

-Mike Muckian, May 2016

Drink Me Magazine

"5 Sensational Sparkling Wines"

"From one of the most sought-after Pinot Noir producers in California comes this utterly delicious 2012 sparkler. Beautifully structured, complex, and expressive of bright red fruits, flowers, hints of mushroom, and mineral, this is a subtly yeasty, thoroughly remarkable blanc de noirs, perfect now or for many years to come."

-Brian Freedman, December 2014

Wine Lines Online

"This sparkler is a very pale salmon color with a persistent, medium bead mousse. The winery has chosen the proprietary name Sea Spray for this bottling, and it is easy to see (or, more to the point, smell) why. The first wave of aromas conjures up memories of days at the beach, basking in cool, salt-edged breezes. The second wave of scents delivers perfumed white flowers, tangy citrus, and fresh baked bread. Once in the mouth, it blossoms into juicy flavors of Red Delicious apple, cherry pit, and fresh raspberry. The mouthfeel has an effervescent, creamy presentation. Made from 100% Pinot Noir grapes from the Sea Smoke estate vineyard, **this is an exquisite example of the best sparkling wine to come from the New World.**" **94 Points; Outstanding**

-Glen Frederiksen and Bob Johnson, November 2014

San Francisco Magazine

"Six Sparkling Wines to Add a Spark to Your Holiday Parties"

"Here are six of our favorite local bottles."

Sea Smoke L.D. 'Sea Spray' Sparkling Wine

"A hip brand coveted by the cognoscenti, this rare and delicate treat is worth the search. A floral nose meets a refreshing, complex, and silky feel on the palate."

-Ian Devereux White, December 2017

Virginian-Pilot

"Sommeliers share favorite sparkling wines for the new year"

"I talked with five top sommeliers and wine experts across Virginia Beach to get their recommendations:

Lindsay Bennett, co-owner/sommelier, Press Wine Bar

'2012 Sea Smoke 'Sea Spray' Blanc de Noirs from Santa Rita Hills, Calif., is a small producer which crafts highly sought-after pinot noirs. The aromas of lemon meringue, strawberry, raspberry,

sea salt, freshly baked bread integrates seamlessly with the acid and minerality to end with a creamy, long and balanced finish.”

-Patrick Evans-Hylton, December 2018

Santa Barbara News-Press

“Solely made from pinot noir, this local sparkler completed fermentation in neutral oak barrels for nine months and then aged for two years in the bottle. Yeasty bread dough and white florals are apparent on the nose with a pleasant hint of oxidation. Good mouth entry with tiny bubbles that expand exponentially on midpalate, showing flavors of lemon chiffon, lemon meringue and brioche. It is lengthy, particularly on the rousing, enthusiastic finish.”

-Dennis Schaefer, February 2017