

# Dundee Hills Winegrowers Association

## 4. The bubbles are rising in the Dundee Hills

“Oregon is right now the single most exciting winemaking area in the United States” stated Eric Asimov in a recent New York Times article, The Oregon Trail. The 40+ wineries in the Dundee Hills AVA are fueling that excitement from vine care to wine crafting, and sparkling wine is one chapter in the story. Although Oregon is most often recognized for Pinot Noir, a growing number of wineries are earning accolades for their sparkling wines.

### **ARGYLE WINERY LED THE WAY TO SPARKLING WITH THEIR 1987 VINTAGE**

Argyle Winery launched its sparkling program in 1987 and was the first to do so in the Willamette Valley. Today, producing seven different sparkling wines, they are featured on restaurant menus across the country with an annual case production of 25,000.

Argyle’s most high-profile wine is the Extended Tirage, a brut-style wine aged 10 years before bottling. Of the 12 Argyle wines chosen for Wine Spectator’s annual Top 100 Wines in the World, four are the Extended Tirage: 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2002.

### **A PROPRIETARY BLEND AT NATIVE FLORA**

Native Flora, a small production, secluded vineyard and winery founded in 2005, began producing estate sparkling in 2011. Their acclaimed proprietary blend of pinot noir and pinot blanc, all method champenoise with at least two years in tirage, can only be found at their winery.

### **CO-FOUNDER OF ARGYLE WINERY PRODUCES SPARKLING**

At ROCO, winemaker Rollin Soles, who co-founded Argyle Winery and whose wines have been named among the Top 100 Wines of the World by Wine Spectator thirteen times, has included sparkling in his roster of chardonnay and Pinot noir.

### **SECOND GENERATION WINEMAKERS OFFER THREE SPARKLING CHOICES**

At Sokol Blosser, one of the pioneering Oregon wine families now led by the second generation, their popular Evolution Sparking Brut will be joined by new Evolution Sparkling Rose in 2018. New packaging will dress the 2014 vintage of



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their Sparkling Rosé of Pinot Noir.

This expansion in sparkling is earning an avid following as the well-deserved accolades build. Oregon ... and the winemakers in the Dundee Hills ... are ready to share the excitement over a glass of bubbly. Are you ready to join us?

### **DEPONTE OFFERS A UNIQUE TWIST ON SPARKLING.**

The Melon de Bourgogne is a grape that has its origins in Burgundy (hence the name, literally translating to Melon of Burgundy) but is now grown in the western most part of the Loire Valley in the region of Muscadet.

The Melon de Bourgogne vines were planted on De Ponte Vineyard (formerly Stewart Vineyard) in the mid 70's and were intended to be Pinot Blanc vines – none of them were. The previous owners, upon finding out it was indeed Melon de Bourgogne, kept the vines because they loved the wine it produced.

This Méthode Traditionelle sparkling wine, of which only 200 cases were made, is just the first release from De Ponte's sparkling program, which started in 2015. Produced exclusively of their old vine Melon, this sparkling has a fresh nose of apricot, peach and notes of brioche – all while keeping its traditional varietal essence and minerality. The bubbles are fine & persistent in the glass and this is a unique sparkling wine now offered in the Dundee Hills.

### **INTENSE YET DELICATE**

Winter's Hill Estate joins the ranks of many other Dundee Hills sparkling producers. They will celebrate the release of their first sparkling wine in September of 2018 with a Bubbles & Oysters event. Their sparkling wine is created exclusively from estate grown fruit, using a blend of Pinot noir and Pinot blanc. Gentle pressing and barrel fermentation allow Winemaker Russell Gladhart to create intense yet delicate sparkling wine.

### **NYSA SPARKLES!**

Nysa Vineyard released its first sparkling in 2018 from their 2013 vintage. It is a brut rosé aged in bottle for 4 years on the yeast before disgorgement and a light 6.25 g/L dosage. Nysa also released their first port from the 2011 vintage which aged in oak for 6 years allowing the tawny flavors to mature. These new offerings along with their two pinot noirs, chardonnay and rosé offer the opportunity to pair their wines with each course of a special meal!