



DOMAINE CARNEROS®

EILEEN CRANE FOUNDING WINEMAKER



Eileen Crane was raised with a keen appreciation for fine food and wine by her father, who first learned about the latter as a D-Day soldier in France and later as the head of the international department for Dean Witter. He brought home wonderful wines and cheeses to share for their Sunday dinners. One evening, champagne was on offer, and Crane was captivated. Her appreciation for fine food led her to obtain a master's degree in nutrition coupled with professional training at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. After two years of teaching nutrition for the University of Connecticut, she focused on her passion for wine, enrolling in the U.C. Davis Enology and Viticulture program. Upon completing her studies, Domaine Chandon hired her as a tour guide. Within a few months, she started to move up the ranks, eventually promoted to the position of Assistant Winemaker.

Crane's next role in the wine industry was at Gloria Ferrer Caves & Vineyards in the Carneros region. In 1984, she accepted the role of Winemaker and Vice President, entrusted with the dual responsibility of overseeing the design and construction of the facility as well as developing their line of sparkling wines.

After an exhaustive search in 1987, the Taittinger family selected Crane as Domaine Carneros' founding winemaker. While directing the first vintage, she was also tasked with overseeing the planning and construction of the winery. In 2003, Crane continued to showcase her aptitude for building, managing, and constructing Domaine Carneros' second winemaking facility, dedicated exclusively to the production of pinot noir wines. In 2018, she oversaw the design and construction of the winery's garden conservatory, the Jardin d'Hiver, an expanded, glassed-in hospitality space on the west side of the chateau, as her parting gift to the winery's legacy before retiring in 2020.

Crane is not only one of the industry's pioneering women, but also the most experienced American sparkling winemaker with over 40 years to her credit and is widely regarded as the doyenne of sparkling wine in America. Her pursuit of excellence in viticulture, winemaking and hospitality has made Domaine Carneros an iconic American winery.

After an incredibly successful career spanning 42 years, Eileen Crane retired as CEO at the end of summer 2020. She now serves as consulting winemaker for the team.

Crane is also actively involved in numerous wine organizations, is a past President of the Carneros Wine Alliance. She has also been an active board member in civic organizations such as OLE Health (formerly Clinic Ole), providing affordable healthcare to the underserved in the community; Collabria Care; and Music in the Vineyards.

FOR PRESS INFORMATION

Please contact Kimberly Noëlle Charles of Charles Communications Associates at kcharles@charlescomm.com or call 415.701.9463.