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# Wine from Women Winemakers

- Historically, winemaking was a man's job, often tied to religious bodies/orders
- Is there any fundamental "signature" difference in female-made wine?
- What unique challenges or opportunities do women winemakers face?

## 1) Marie Courtin Résonance Blanc de Noirs Extra Brut NV – Aube, France

- The Aube is closer to Chablis than to the heart of Champagne in Reims; it has the same Kimmeridgian limestone as Chablis
- Dominique Moreau took over a little plot of mostly Pinot Noir vines in the Aube district in 2001; started her Marie Courtin label (named for her grandmother) in 2005
- Dominique's winemaking is a little different than what's traditionally been "typical" in Champagne: she makes single vineyard, single varietal, single vintage wine from biodynamically farmed vineyards; uses no commercial yeasts and no dosage
- Résonance is from all hand-harvested Pinot Noir fermented in stainless steel; it's named for the balancing effects of earth and sky that affect wine's terroir

## 1) Pewsey Vale Dry Riesling '12 – Eden Valley, Australia

- Eden Valley is a region in South Australia, famous for its Riesling, which is dry and generally very minerally
- Pewsey Vale vineyards were first planted in 1847 by an Englishman; 115 years later this area became the center of Australia's Riesling renaissance
- Winemaker is Louisa Rose, who also works for Aussie wineries Yalumba and Hill-Smith; she grew up working on her family's vineyard in the Yarra Valley and studied theoretical physics before taking on winemaking
- Her winemaking style is focused on purity, minimal manipulation and crafting a wine that fits into its surroundings and expresses where it's from

## 3) Ryme Cellars "His" Vermentino '11 – Carneros, California

- Megan and Ryan Glaab are a husband-and-wife winemaking team based in Sonoma; they have two kids as well
- Megan knew from a young age that she wanted to make wine; she studied oenology in Australia before returning to California to work with Ryan
- Ryme makes two versions of Vermentino: both are inspired by their passion for Italian wine, though "His" is skin-fermented "orange" wine and "Hers" is fresh, clean, lively
- This is made from the Las Brisas Vineyard on the Sonoma side of the Carneros AVA, where sandy silt and gravel reign



#### 4) Tami Frappato '11 – Sicily, Italy

- Tami is made by the young, dynamic and biodynamic-practicing Arianna Occhipinti, who also makes wine under her Occhipinti label
- She's one of the biggest names in the "natural winemaking" scene, yet for her the "natural" theme is not a marketing scheme but a thorough way of life
- She also runs a physical and online shop called "Tami" that sells her wine, foraged and specially curated food products and design items
- Based in Sicily, she makes this from 100% local varietal Frappato

#### 5) Olga Raffault Les Picasses '07 – Chinon, France

- Chinon is an appellation in the Loire Valley for mostly red wines from Cabernet Franc
- Olga has now passed away, and her granddaughter Sylvie is in charge
- Winemaking style remains spunky, fresh, punchy yet definitively earthy, playful yet traditional, with minimal manipulation
- Raffault makes multiple cuvees, based on specific vineyard sites; Les Picasses is considered the most classic, ageworthy of the lineup, from a limestone and clay site

#### 6) Catena Alta Malbec '09 – Mendoza, Argentina

- Nicola Catena planted his first Malbec vines in Argentina in 1902 after emigrating from Italy; his grandson, Nicolas, revolutionized Argentinian wine by choosing to focus on high quality (rather than quantity) and emphasize high altitude vineyard sites
- Nicolas's daughter, Laura, is managing director of Catena Zapata today... she's also an emergency room doctor (with degrees from Harvard and Stanford), author and mother of three
- Wines from Catena Alta label are designed to age; the wines are sourced from specific rows of designated vineyards in Mendoza that belong to the Catena family
- Laura continues her family's tradition of "old world" style, ageworthy wines

