



*Sparkle Motion*

“Sometimes I doubt your commitment to Sparkle Motion,” moans one frenzied pageant mom to another in a scene from cult classic *Donnie Darko*. Well, don’t doubt ours. In this column, we at *The Tasting Panel* rate the most notable sparkling wines that cross our desks and lips each issue. Given the wide range of production methods, styles, and price points the category covers, we’ve devised the following system to score each on its own merits.



**Baldacci Pops Sparkling Wine, Carneros, Napa Valley**

(\$50) Pale shell-pink in the glass, where it sports a lasting bead, this blanc de noirs marries liveliness and class. Red apple and nectarine are laced on the clear-cut nose with hints of toasted almond and mint that also appear on the long finish, preceded by intense flavors of more nectarine, Rainier cherry, and midpalate lemon zest. Bright, undulating acidity meshes with a touch of creaminess along the way. **93**

