

Wines of the Finger Lakes



Featured Selection

HOSMER 2009 SPARKLING BRUT ROSÉ

Hosmer Winery, located on the west side of Cayuga Lake, has been making a variety of good to excellent wines since their first vintage in 1985. The first vines were planted in 1972 by David Hosmer; initially, the grapes were sold to various area wineries—but in the mid-Eighties David's son, Cameron, and his wife, Maren, decided that the time was right to start making their own wine. Early vintages were sold from a makeshift tasting room in the couple's garage.

Cameron, known to many by his nickname "Tunker," is a 1976 graduate of Cornell with a BS in pomology. He now has sixty-five acres of vines, three-quarters of which are planted in *vinifera* varieties such as Riesling, Cabernet Franc, and Pinot Noir. In 2009, Cameron and Hosmer winemaker Aaron Roisen decided to try something new with their Pinot Noir grapes, and they produced a dry sparkling rosé.



This sparkler proved to be a hit with the judges for the 2012 New York Food & Wine Classic, where it won a gold medal. The wine is made totally from Hosmer's own estate-grown Pinot Noir grapes, and it's a beauty. Its concentrated cherry and plum flavors are delightful, and the small bubbles give it a creamy mouth feel that leads to a crisp finish supported by good acidity. The 2009 Sparkling Brut Rosé, Cameron says, was aged for eighteen months on its lees; this adds a pleasant toasty note that gives a bit of complexity to the wine's lingering flavors.

With production of 201 cases, supplies should last throughout the 2012 holiday season. An ideal accompaniment to Thanksgiving turkey and a fine choice for toast-ing in the New Year, the Hosmer 2009 Sparkling Brut Rosé retails for \$25 and may be purchased online at www.hosmerwinery.com.

— Dave Pohl
Dave Pohl, MA '79, is a wine buyer at Northside Wine & Spirits in Ithaca.

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