

5 surprises in every bottle of sparkling wine

By Peg Melnik, Santa Rosa Press Democrat

When you uncork a sparkler, the hiss of the cork reminds you that there's a secret in the bottle.

The frothy, free-flowing bubbly is entirely different than the wine that was originally bottled. But most people don't have a clue about how the mystery occurs.

With New Year's Eve in the offing, here are five surprises hidden inside a bottle of bubbly. They will help you understand why early Champagne ads beckoned drinkers with this promise: "Come quickly, I am tasting the stars."

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