



What is Greg Drinking?

Editorial and photo by Gregory Post

This was Supposed to be a Birthay Present

These were the words I would toss out at my now newly-married friend and coworker, Jess at Saltwater Farm Vineyard. It was a reference to a bottle of sparkling Chenin Blanc that had been purchased in July. It had been stashed in the wine fridge for safe-keeping knowing that it was not the right time to crack into it that day. It was meant to be savored at a better time with the right vibe for the product of these vines. Every month between July and November, we would make plans to dive in, yet life gets in the way. These are the vineyard's busiest seasons. Toss in her planning a wedding and my family expecting a second child, and there is barely room for the weekly adulting of groceries and bills. Yet the funny thing about life is that sometimes the universe really does toss things into the order you never knew you needed. Such is the case with Mousse-Tache sparkling Chenin Blanc. The right time was waiting for us, we just had to be patient.

The format of toggling between malted barley and fermented grapes has gone off the rails a little as of late. Long standing voice of reason in the Ink Magazine journey, Rona Mann dropped off the November issue and pointed out an opportunity to feature a sparkling beverage in honor of the holidays and the arrival of my son - more than enough reason to continue the run on wines. By the time this is printed, God willing, my son will be safely delivered into our arms with mother and son happy and healthy. I am writing this article watching my wife in constant awe of her grace and strength during pregnancy. Lord knows the last time I had a chest cold I was ready to send for Last Rites.

So with all of that said, you are welcome in advance for the contents of this bottle. As a peace offering to the beer fans of this magazine, does it help that this particular bubbly is bottle-capped? It certainly does not hurt the effervescence, which is more than apparent in tight strands of bubbles that rise up from the bottom of the glass like a properly shaken snow globe. It is pale golden in color with the warm brightness of the sun reflecting off of snowy tree branches in the morning. Another reason this wine makes for a great holiday splash is the subtle notes of white flowers and pear which could almost trick your senses into

thinking summer is still lingering outside your window, weather app be damned. The holidays are so many things to us all, and versatility is a key component to not losing your mind trying to juggle all of the trappings of December. This extra Brut white French wine "eats rubber bands for breakfast," as my retired Marine father would say. You can serve it neat, pour it over ice, or incorporate it into a spritz or a cocktail. It can be paired with unwrapping years of family baggage as easily as presents. You just need to make sure you find a place from which to source it, in my case it was the beverage professionals at Spencer and Lynn package store in downtown Mystic. Before you open the door to your childhood home (or open your home back up to your children), finding the right bottle is of utmost importance. Mousse-Tache sparkling Chenin Blanc lets your friends and family know that the liberal arts degree that you earned was well worth the investment. It is a wine that is designed by maker Jeff Carrel to be engaging and fun, like Scattergories or Scrabble for the library card users in the crowd. Yet it is every bit as serious as the games of cribbage or pitch that may adorn other tables. It is office and block-party-approved and appropriate, just make sure you bring a bottle opener and an open mind. Southwest France is the source of this charming Chenin Blanc offering. Boasting of modern techniques and vision, it is vibrant and inviting, qualities that one can only dream of when considering the social callings that might justify purchasing a bottle or two of these bubbles.



Ultimately, you want to have a happy holiday season. Even if you prefer to invoke the specific one you are celebrating, I think we can all agree that this is a time of year when we all deserve the hope of humanity. The prospect of peace seems too often daunting and beyond reach, but December has a little built-in magic that makes even the loftiest of ideals seem downright sensible. While we may pray for the larger and loftier goals, we can do plenty to effect positive change in our inner circles. Irish though I may be, this is the time of year to ease the grip on some of those grudges. Raise more glasses than tensions and offer more compliments than critiques.

The bubbles in your glass won't be the only thing you lift this year.