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Secrets you'll uncover at top sparkling wine houses

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Iron Horse Vineyards

Few sparkling wine houses age their sparklers for 15 years, about twice as long as normal for sparklers. But at Iron Horse you can find one that's been hibernating for 15 years — the Joy 2006, with grapes picked in 2006.

"It has aged for the longest of our sparklings," CEO Joy Sterling said. "The magnum is best suited for this aging because there's so very little oxidation. This kind of aging allows the slow breakdown of the yeast cells."

The winery only sells Joy in the magnum format and produces about 250 cases yearly, with each bottle priced at \$275.

The fruit was groomed in Green Valley, close to the ocean. It has a refreshing twist of chardonnay and pinot, Sterling said.

Sterling said Joy is the sparkling wine house's best effort.

"In our evaluation, this is our finest, thanks to the extended time," she said. "The greatest benefit of aging this long is the stunning finesse which only comes with time."