



## Sommelier's pick

**Who:** Josep Prats, the general manager and sommelier at Coppa Osteria, 5210 Morningside. He began his restaurant career in Mexico City but has been an integral part of Houston's hospitality scene since 2006, having previously been part of the Carrabba's team. At Coppa, Prats has created a wine list designed to pair with the sultry summer days ahead, and these are four of his personal favorites — in four different colors.

### 2015 Evening Land Seven Springs Gamay Noir

"The wine comes from North America's oldest gamay plantings, which are bio-dynamically farmed in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. Rajat Parr and Shashi Moorman of Evening Land stayed true to Beaujolais methods on their collaboration, so the wine shows high tannin and acidity levels. Light-bodied, it works well served lightly chilled and enjoyed on Coppa's patio." Of note: Parr is a James Beard Award-winning author and a true celebrity sommelier; Houston venture capitalist Steve Webster owns Evening Land.

**Price:** \$44 a bottle

### 2015 Ronchi di Cialla Ribolla Gialla Cialla Valley, Colli Orientali del Friuli

"Valle di Cialla is, to me, the grand cru of Friuli but also a wine that can be enjoyed throughout the summer. A pale yellow-green with an elegant bouquet and possessing bread-crust notes, it's fresh and has a perfect balance with acidity and minerality. A recent visit to Friuli, where I had the opportunity to drink the wine with the winemakers, inspired me to share it with my guests in Houston, hoping to bring them as close as possible to the experience I enjoyed."

**Price:** \$27 a bottle

### Jean-Charles Boisset Brut Rosé of Pinot Noir NV

"From Burgundy in France, it's very refreshing with great acidity and floral, raspberry and red currant notes. A simple, approachable wine, it's also perfect for patio sipping." And it's a fine way to celebrate National Rosé Day Saturday. Of note: The Frenchman Boisset, whose parents founded the family winery in the famed Burgundian village of Vougeot, now presides over a wine empire that includes [De Loach Vineyards](#) in Sonoma County and Raymond Vineyard in Napa Valley.

**Price:** \$14 a glass, \$75 a magnum

### 2014 Il Censo Praruar Catarratto, Sicily

"A pure expression of Sicily, this biodynamic orange wine — a white wine that has been fermented with the skins — is made from the catarratto grape and shows the best of both worlds. It's an orange wine, which is to say a white varietal that has been fermented with the skins on. It shows the structure and tannins of a red wine with the freshness and acidity of a white wine. You will find notes of orange peel, honeysuckle, and chamomile with a hint of oxidation that adds to the color and complexity."

**Price:** \$45 a bottle

*Dale Robertson*

**Favorite wines of Josep Prats, above, of Coppa Osteria include Seven Springs Gamay Noir 2015, from left, Friuli Colli Orientali Ribolla Gialla 2015, JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset rosé and 2014 Censo Praruar.**

Gary Fountain photos

