

THE SOMMELIER JOURNAL

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016
\$10.00 US/\$12.00 CANADA

THE SOMM JOURNAL

ADVENTURES
DOWN THE
ROAD AT

KENWOOD

THE STORIED SONOMA
COUNTY WINERY
CONTINUES TO BLAZE
NEW TRAILS

Kenwood Chief
Winemaker
Pat Henderson in
the vineyards.



PHOTO: JAMES HANSEN

THE Terroirist's DEBATE

DIGGING IN: UNIQUE
TERROIR & ITS EFFECT
ON WINE STYLES

by Jonathan Cristaldi and Diane Denham
photos by Alexander Rubin

The hottest day on record fell on the summer solstice—June 20—as a packed room of buyers from the San Francisco Bay Area converged on The Napa Valley Wine Academy in downtown Napa. Though the energy was electric, the room was cool, but as *The Somm Journal's* second “Digging In: Unique Terroir & Its Effect on Wine Styles” seminar got underway, things began to heat up.

“Is the concept of terroir really just a myth? Are differences in wine styles only the results of bacteria and flavors imparted by different yeasts?” These are just a few of the questions raised by Peter Marks, Master of Wine, who moderated the event in a casual, confident manner, over four hours of discussion with nine panelists, representing wines from around the globe.

Peter Marks, MW, moderated the event, shown here with Lisa Brown of Boisset Collection.

FRANCE: Bourgogne



Three wines presented provided excellent examples of how winemakers often blend different terroirs to achieve a winemaker's vision or a consistent house style. Although the **Domaine de la Vougeraie**

2013 Terres de Famille Pinot Noir, Bourgogne

(\$50) from the Boisset Collection's portfolio is from Burgundy—a region that has parsed site-specific terroir like no other—Domaine de la Vougeraie is a blend from several vineyards. “The separate lots are Village level wines, but once blended, the Village appellation can no longer be used,” explained Lisa Brown, Boisset

Collections Brand Manager, but noted that Boisset regional wines are treated like Grand Crus. “Regional wines give the first impression of Burgundy, so it's important to make it a good one,” Marks agreed. The Pinot Noir did show impressive delicacy and uncommon finesse, “especially since 2013 was a difficult vintage, but this is one of the best Bourgognes Rouges I've ever tasted,” he said.