edible MARIN & WINE COUNTRY

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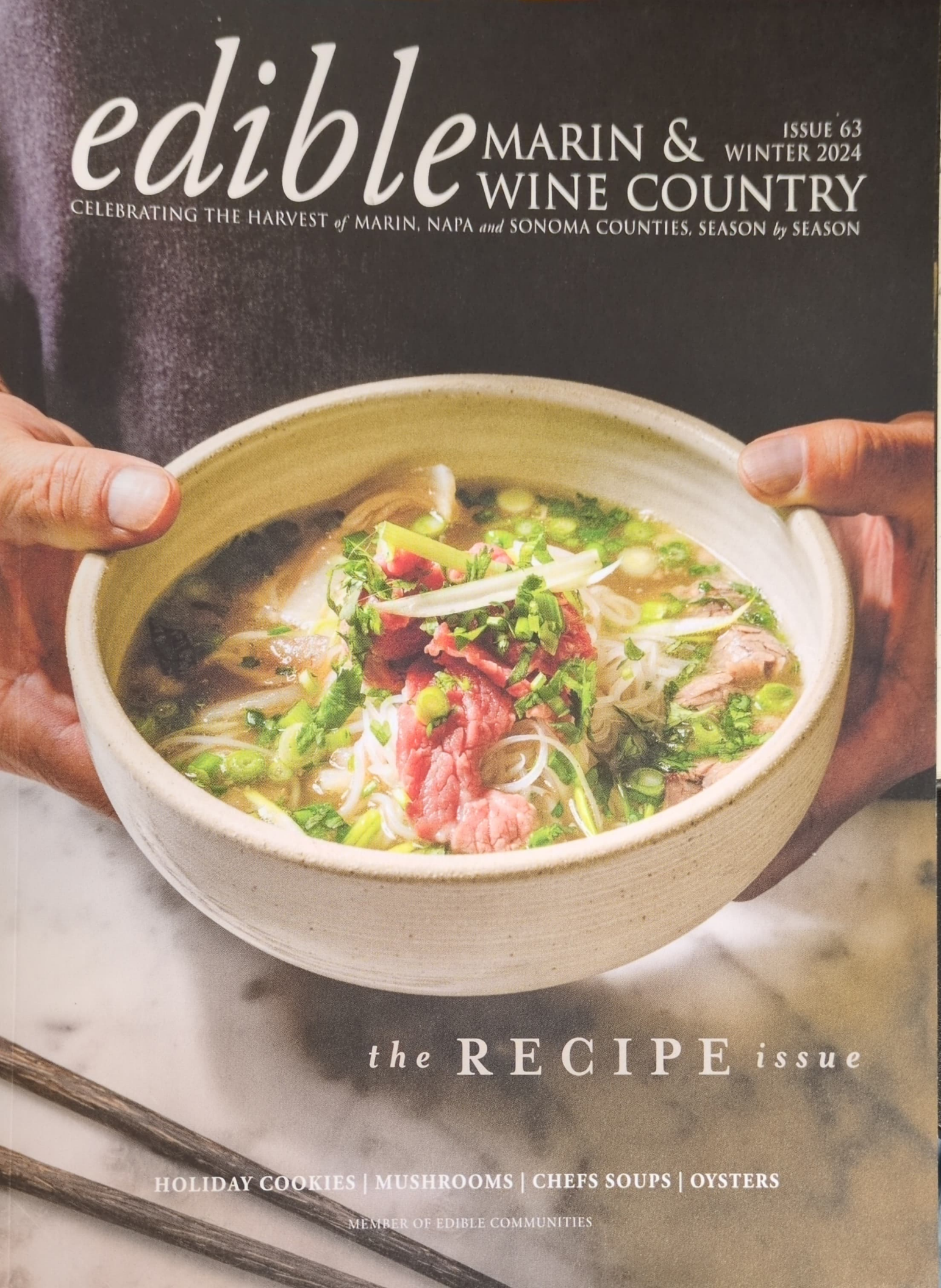
CELEBRATING THE HARVEST *of* MARIN, NAPA *and* SONOMA COUNTIES, SEASON *by* SEASON



the RECIPE *issue*

HOLIDAY COOKIES | MUSHROOMS | CHEFS SOUPS | OYSTERS

MEMBER OF EDIBLE COMMUNITIES

BY EMILY FAIR WEBER

Three Northern California Wineries

COLOR OUTSIDE THE LINES

Left to right: Carboniste's Sparkling Rosé of Pinot Noir, Extradimensional Wine Co. Yeah!'s Evangelho Mourvèdre and Overshine's Il Campo Zinfandel.

Carboniste
Dan & Jacqueline Person, Sonoma

Winemakers Dan and Jacqueline Person of Carboniste.

Meet Dan and Jacqueline Person, California winemakers with a vision for authentic sparkling wine that captures the true essence of their state. This couple, who met while studying enology at UC Davis, aren't here to deliver more of the same—they're on a mission to redefine sparkling wine with a distinctly California flair.

After cutting his teeth at Clos du Bois and Schramsberg, Dan had two takeaways: "There's too much Napa Cab in this world, and, you wouldn't make Burgundy in Bordeaux, so why would you make Champagne in California?" He found that the tendency to mimic France offered a ripe opportunity to celebrate California's sunny personality.

Upon launching Carboniste in 2017, Dan knew he wanted to make sparkling wine but not in the way others in the region were. Instead of working with classic, cooler-climate Champagne grapes (like Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Pinot Meunier), Dan turned to Albariño, a nontraditional choice for sparkling wine yet a variety that thrives in California's sunnier climes. Using the time-tested Champagne method but updating the grape choice to suit the terroir, Dan landed on a distinctive California sparkling wine. "Albariño is great, unripe or riper," he says, making it perfect for the expressive, crunchy style of wine he was striving to capture.

For Dan, winemaking is a form of art. He relishes "the opportunity to take a vineyard, some grapes, and discover what kind of wine they'll make." This experimental streak has led to other interesting bottlings from Carboniste including a sparkling, skin-fermented Pinot Grigio, a "Rouge Brute" Merlot & Albariño blend and Pinot Grigio Pet Nat.

With their hands-on approach and unwavering commitment to California terroir, Carboniste proves that challenging tradition and crafting a product true to its roots can yield delicious results.

For tastings, reach out directly to set up a tasting at the winery. Email info@carboniste.com.

Winemaker Hardy Wallace with his wife, Kate Graham, and their children, Maple and Herve.

Extradimensional Wine Co. Yeah!
Hardy Wallace & Kate Graham, Sonoma

Extradimensional Wine Co. Yeah! is the brainchild of Hardy Wallace and Kate Graham, a couple combining innovative ideas with seasoned expertise to produce unique wines that challenge industry conventions.

With 15 vintages under his belt, Extradimensional is not Hardy's first rodeo. He came to Wine Country to work in marketing but soon entered the cellar under the tutelage of now-retired innovator Kevin Kelley of Salina and the Natural Process Alliance. Hooked on experimental winemaking, Hardy launched Dirty & Rowdy with Matt Richardson in the Napa Valley in 2010. After 11 years, Dirty & Rowdy hung up their hats and Hardy and Kate launched Extradimensional.

Hardy looked at Mourvèdre and said, "Let's make this fun!" How? By using partial carbonic maceration for lighter, fruitier results. He is also a big believer in blending, often mixing red and white varieties to achieve wines with balance, tension, lift and one-of-a-kind character. Instead of copy-pasting euro-centric blending models, Hardy writes his own rules. For instance, the 2021 "Family Band" includes mostly Zin, plus 35% Old Vine Grenache and 15% Older Vine Chardonnay. This is by no means a traditional blend but the results are beautiful and mysterious: medium bodied, autumnal and reminiscent of Cru Beaujoulais.

At the Extradimensional tasting room just off the Sonoma plaza, instead of another Pinot you can discover wines that make both 75-year-olds from Oklahoma and young hipsters from Oakland exclaim, "This is SO me!"

For aspiring winemakers, Hardy's advice is simple yet profound: Pursue your passion and maintain a strong point of view. In an industry often bound by tradition, Extradimensional stands out as a beacon of creativity, proving that there's always room for imagination and innovation. ***27 E. Napa St. Suite E, Sonoma. Friday–Sunday 11am–4:15pm***

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES JOINER