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BOOKS CREATE A VIRTUAL VISIT TO NAPA AND SONOMA

At *Spirited*, we love a good book. And if it involves food, wine, booze, and beer, we're all in,—especially if the book is by a woman and is all about women. Because we're generous and we like to share, we wanted you to know about two first class lifestyle books that are meant both for your coffee table (if you still have one, and can find it) as well as for your kitchen counter. The same caveats apply. I know I can't find either one of said surfaces in my house these days, but these two books are easy for me to find, as they're right on top of whatever lies beneath them at the moment.

Wine Country Women of Sonoma County and *Wine Country Women of Napa Valley* are both produced by Michelle Mandro, founder and president of Wine Country Women LLC, a luxury lifestyle and entertainment brand.

They're a melding of cookbook and biography, each telling the stories of women involved in the wine industry or, more broadly, the hospitality business. Each woman shares her favorite recipe, along with a suggested beverage pairing. The recipes are arranged from appetizers to desserts, and you're sure to find something in each category to whet your appetite.

Says Mandro, “What I like most about our concept is consumers can select a recipe from each category and have an instant wine dinner! Each featured recipe comes with a pairing suggestion and the woman’s explanation why they think it works so well. It’s also great for progressive dinners.”

Each book is available in a special limited edition with an art cover, numbered and signed by the author and the cover artist, both of which can be ordered from Mandro’s website. The more widely available trade versions, which are also exquisite, can be found on Amazon and other sites, as well as winecountrywomen.com.

“The books are designed to provide a glimpse into the lives of a diverse group of women who live the wine country life. I wanted to educate the reader and provide a snapshot of the area, introducing them not just to winemakers and winery owners, but to other people working in wine country as well. Having a broad age distribution was also important, as it helps satisfy the curiosity of anyone who dreams of doing the same,” says Mandro.

Mandro’s favorite recipes from *Wine Country Women of Sonoma County* include:

Appetizer: Smoked Salmon and Dill Crème Fraiche on Cucumber, by Nicole Hitchcock (J Vineyards winemaker), paired with J Brut Rosé

Soup/Salad: Wild Rice Salad by Prema Behan, paired with Three Sticks Castenada Rosé

Entrée: Nonna Maria Julia’s Ravioli and Gravy, by Mia Sangiacomo Pucci, paired with Sangiacomo ViMaria Pinot Noir

Dessert: S'more-in-a-Jar by Duskie Estes, paired with bourbon-spiked affogato or Davis Family Vineyards' Late Harvest Viognier

The two different versions of both cookbooks can be ordered from Mandro's website, where you can also check out her 60+ podcast episodes, featuring intimate interviews with the women of Napa and Sonoma, who are profiled in the cookbooks.

Cheers to the wine country life!