



## Marilouise Patricia Kornell

December 3, 2016 - July 24, 2016

Marilouise Rossini Kornell Courageous, outspoken, determined, sassy and elegant, a true leading lady has left our presence in the Napa Valley. Marilouise Rossini Kornell was born in Vallejo on December 3, 1922 and passed away in Napa on July 24 at the healthy age of 93. Marilouise, the daughter of Emma and Peter Rossini, was a direct descendant of the great composer Gioacchino Rossini and related to the Swiss-Italian artist Alberto Giacometti. She graduated from Vallejo High School in the winter of 1941 and immediately pursued a B.S degree in teaching at San Francisco State. After receiving her degree, she won a scholarship to study medicine at University of California, San Francisco. Upon graduating Marilouise spearheaded a program to provide real classroom diagnosis, treatment and education for children with severe handicaps, primarily cerebral palsy. Her program became a model for special education in California and the United States. While attending UC, Marilouise sang in the chorus of the San Francisco Symphony under the guidance of Maestro Pierre Montreux. In 1952, she made her debut as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony. Marilouise met Hanns Kornell thru mutual friends in 1957. They married in 1958 and moved to St. Helena where she lived the rest of her life. Hanns and Marilouise purchased the old Salmina Winery which dated back to the turn of the century. In 1958, they established Hanns Kornell Champagne Cellars as the first method champenoise winery in the Napa Valley. Marilouise was truly Hanns' partner in business and life. Concerned that much of what was valuable in the Napa

Valley was being swept away, Marilouise put part of her boundless energy into saving a piece of St. Helena heritage before it was too late: Vintage Hall, the old high school from which her father had graduated. Marilouise also joined the board of the Napa Arts Council, Criminal Justice, Upper Napa Valley Associates and the Napa College Advisory Board. She was also a founding member and director of Clinic Ole. She continued her efforts at Vintage Hall and became a leader of the Napa Valley Museum, where she led the Board of Trustees for many years. Whatever she did it was always with passion, conviction and charm. Affectionately called the Queen Mum, Marilouise loved to hold court with good conversation over anything from a proper cup of tea to a dirty gin martini. When she saw a bottle of Billecart -Salmon her eyes lit up! Her passions were many, from the love of her home and garden, to extensive foreign travel, to being an incredible cook and historian. The door to her home was wide open to many. Marilouise leaves behind her two children, daughter Paula and son Peter and his wife, Judy, along with her special four-legged companion, Daisy. A Rosary will be recited on Wednesday August 3 at 7pm. Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday August 4 10:00am, both at the St. Helena Catholic Church. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Guide Dogs for the Blind, PO Box 151200, San Rafael, CA 94915-1200. You may also donate on line, please visit [www.guidedogs.com](http://www.guidedogs.com) or call 1-800-295-4050 X4160. Treadway and Wigger is serving the family 707 226-1828.

# Tribute Wall



“ I'm sorry for your loss! In times like these we need comfort. God's word can soothe our hearts and minds. The Bible says at Isaiah 25:8 "He will swallow up death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces." We look to God through Jesus and his Kingdom to do this. I hope you find comfort as you endure your loss.

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August 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM