

Wine Spectator's Insider Weekly

December 24, 2025

A First Look at Our Editors' Most Exciting New Wines

Vintage Sparkling Wine

Holiday Sparklers Special Edition

Nothing says celebration quite like popping open a bottle of sparkling wine. Whether you're planning on celebrating the coming New Year with an elegant dinner, heading to a gathering or counting down to midnight at home, the right bubbles can set the tone—or even steal the show. This all-sparkling Insider highlights standout bottles from around the globe, spanning both classic regions and underappreciated finds, with styles ranging from crisp and lively to complex and vinous. A broad range of prices ensures there's something for every occasion, from wines suited to generous party pours to more luxurious bottles worthy of lingering over the final meal of the year.

The white vintage selections featured below are all drinking beautifully now, particularly the reserve bottlings from Ca' del Bosco and Henriot, which are beginning to reveal added complexity with age (though at a premium) while still showing enough vivacity to carry them through further cellaring.

Non-vintage bottles, by contrast, are often released young for immediate enjoyment, but the best examples can reward patience, mellowing their sometimes exuberant edges with a year or two of rest. Similarly, blanc de blancs wines—the most high-toned category—can be angular in their youth and often benefit from a little time to turn inward and rebalance.

Sparkling wine's versatility is perhaps most evident in rosé bubbles, which pair beautifully with food thanks to their wide spectrum of styles, from the distinctive, powerful Vilmart Brut Rosé Champagne Emotion, with its copper hue, blood orange flavors and light tannic grip to the crunchy, vibrant Raventós i Blanc Brut Rosé Vino Espumoso de Nit 2023.

And while sparkling wine sets the festive tone, this Insider edition also features four recently reviewed, classic-scoring Barolos that are best cellared for enjoyment on frosty nights in the years to come—along with an outstanding Value Pick from St.-Emilion. At \$35, it's an excellent Bordeaux to pick up a few bottles of and savor over the next decade.—*Larry Rubin*





CA' DEL BOSCO

**Dosage Zéro Franciacorta
Annamaria Clementi
Riserva 2016**

94 points | \$120 | 250 cases imported | White

This vibrant sparkler shows lovely equilibrium. The fine china-like frame of acidity is enmeshed with the finely textured, creamy mousse, which carries flavors of mandarin orange, chopped white raspberry and dried pineapple fruit, plus savory details of beeswax, oyster shell, smoked almond and lemon thyme that echo on the persistent finish. Chardonnay, Pinot Bianco and Pinot Nero. Disgorged autumn 2024. Drink now through 2036.—*A.N.*



HENRIOT

**Brut Champagne Cuvée
Hemera 2013**

94 points | \$225 | 130 cases imported | White

An elegant Champagne, with tension and focus to the flavors of baked pear, grapefruit peel, pine, salted almond and crystallized honey as they mesh with a spine of fine china-like acidity and satiny mousse. Minerally on the lasting, clean-cut finish, with accents of smoke, chalk and oyster shell. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Drink now through 2038.—*A.N.*



DOMAINE CARNEROS

Brut Carneros 2021

93 points | \$39 | 23,000 cases made | White

Lilting and refined, with delicately layered Asian pear and strawberry flavors, plus brioche and spice accents that dance on the sleek finish. Drink now.—*T.F.*



DOMAINE CARNEROS

**Brut Carneros Late
Disgorged 2018**

94 points | \$60 | 3,500 cases made | White

Alluring and richly detailed, with attractive flavors of baked apple, almond brioche and roasted hazelnut that fan out on the luscious finish. Drink now.—*T.F.*



IRON HORSE

**Brut Green Valley of
Russian River Valley Classic
Vintage 2021**

94 points | \$58 | 2,300 cases made | White

Shows finesse and a handsome structure, with multilayered pear and strawberry flavors highlighted by fresh ginger, blanched almond and yeast roll notes that linger on the crisp finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Drink now.—*T.F.*



IRON HORSE

**Wedding Cuvée Green
Valley of Russian River
Valley 2020**

93 points | \$58 | 2,400 cases made | White

Boldly aromatic and festive in style, this multilayered sparkler offers bright strawberry and citrus flavors highlighted by graham cracker, fresh ginger and almond. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Drink now.—*T.F.*

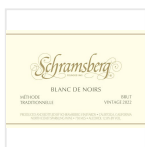


JUVÉ Y CAMPS

Brut Cava Gran Reserva 2018

93 points | \$65 | White

Hints of pastry and fragrant spices enrich flavors of passion fruit coulis, ripe cherry and salted almond. This is bright with blood orange–infused acidity, and the vivacious bead carries the profile on the lasting finish. Xarel-lo, Macabeu, Chardonnay and Parellada. Drink now through 2033.—*A.N.*



SCHRAMSBERG

Brut Blanc de Noirs North Coast 2022

93 points | \$46 | 11,400 cases made | White

Lively and refined but festive, with pretty accents of strawberry, lemon, apple and graham cracker that sail on the crisp yet supple finish. Drink now.—*T.F.*



ROEDERER ESTATE

Clark Road Vineyard Anderson Valley Sparkling 2021

93 points | \$55 | 581 cases made | White

Rich and gracefully structured, with lilting flavors of strawberry, pear, yeast roll and roasted nuts that linger on the lush finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Drink now.—*T.F.*



ARGYLE

Brut Willamette Valley Vintage 2022

90 points | \$30 | 19,000 cases made | White

Appealing for its easygoing flavors of apple, cherry blossoms and spiced cinnamon that linger at length. Drink now.—*T.F.*

Non-Vintage



KRUG

Brut Champagne Grande Cuvée 173ème Édition NV

96 points | \$270 | White

Vibrant and rich, statuesque yet graceful, this lovely Champagne offers an expansive range of patisserie apple and pear fruit, grilled macadamia nut, lime and tangerine peel notes, with fragrant saffron, clove, espresso and mineral accents. A lithe, focused spine of lemony acidity and an underlying streak of salinity are enmeshed in the flavor profile, and the fine, satinlike mousse carries everything on the long, mouthwatering finish. Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Meunier. Disgorged winter 2023–2024 (Krug ID 124003). Drink now through 2040.—A.N.



LOUIS ROEDERER

Brut Champagne Collection 246 NV

93 points | \$80 | 14,355 cases imported | White

A harmonious Champagne that shows impeccable balance, with depth and focus to its flavors of white cherry, Honeycrisp apple, tangerine peel and biscuit, while retaining vibrancy and grace. A chalky underpinning comes to the fore on the creamy finish, joining delicate spice and floral accents. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Meunier. Drink now through 2030.—A.N.



BELLAVISTA

Extra Brut Franciacorta Alma Assemblage 1 NV

93 points | \$40 | 1,216 cases imported | White

An elegant Franciacorta, with the refined, pointillismlike mousse, well-honed acidity and subtle streak of salinity framing flavors of poached white cherry, yellow plum, Meyer lemon peel and pickled ginger, plus a touch of toasted brioche. Hints of smoke, oyster shell and spices play on the lingering finish. Chardonnay, Pinot Nero and Pinot Bianco. Drink now through 2034.—A.N.



PIERRE PAILLARD

Extra Brut Champagne Les Parcelles XXI NV

93 points | \$60 | 700 cases imported | White

A toasty version, animated by racy acidity, with fragrant accents of lime blossoms, grilled macadamia nut and vanilla enmeshed with flavors of lemon meringue pie, wild cherry, tangerine peel, chopped hazelnut and fleur de sel. Reminiscent of *grand cru* white Burgundy with bubbles, give this short-term cellaring to reveal all of its charms. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Disgorged January 2025. Best after 2027. —A.N.



PLOYEZ-JACQUEMART

**Brut Champagne Extra
Quality NV**

93 points | \$56 | 2,083 cases imported | White

A graceful Champagne, with a fine, raw silk-like mousse carrying well-meshed flavors of poached quince and pear, Marcona almond, oyster shell and white blossoms. Fresh and focused, with savory hints of mineral and herbs on the finish. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Disgorged October 2024. Drink now through 2035.—A.N.



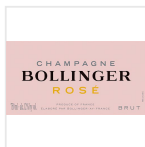
VILMART

**Brut Champagne Grand
Cellier NV**

93 points | \$83 | 1,000 cases imported | White

A vivid Champagne, with chiseled acidity enmeshed with flavors of crushed boysenberry and chopped yellow peach fruit, lime peel, fragrant nutmeg and cumin, plus hints of crystallized honey and oyster shell. This is tightly meshed and racy, yet the raw silk-like mousse carries the flavor profile nicely through the persistent finish. Enjoy this today as well as with cellaring. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Disgorged July 2024. Drink now through 2033.—A.N.

Rosé



BOLLINGER

Brut Rosé Champagne NV

94 points | \$156 | Rosé

An enticing rosé Champagne, with a core of ripe and juicy raspberry, white peach and cherry, fragrant anise, cardamom and cumin, plus accents of slivered almond, candied ginger, blood orange peel and white blossoms. Mouthwatering and harmonious, with a fine, raw silk-like mousse and a long, long finish. Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier. Drink now through 2030.—A.N.



CA' DEL BOSCO

**Extra Brut Rosé
Franciacorta Annamaria
Clementi Riserva 2015**

94 points | \$120 | 75 cases imported | Rosé

A harmonious sparkling rosé, with a swathe of satin-like texture, this shows seamless integration of fine china-like acidity with strawberry tart, cherry reduction, blood orange granita and brioche flavors, plus dried thyme, ground ginger and chalk accents. Disgorged summer 2023. Drink now through 2035.—A.N.



VILMART

Brut Rosé Champagne Emotion 2016

94 points | \$195 | 25 cases imported | Rosé

A bright and graceful rosé Champagne, with a pleasing buoyancy to the fine china-like acidity, enmeshed with a pure beam of crushed raspberry and strawberry fruit, oyster shell, blood orange sorbet and biscuit flavors. Offers a long, mouthwatering finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Disgorged October 2022. Drink now through 2040.—A.N.



ARGYLE

Brut Rosé Willamette Valley 2022

93 points | \$30 | 3,000 cases made | Rosé

A creamy and succulent sparkler, showing refreshing flavors of raspberry, peach and orange blossoms that gather richness on the finish. Drink now.—T.F.



PLOYEZ-JACQUEMART

Extra Brut Rosé Champagne NV

93 points | \$71 | 283 cases imported | Rosé

Fragrant and appealing, with warm baking spice, vanilla and chopped hazelnut notes enriching flavors of ripe white peach and white cherry, blood orange peel and pickled ginger, all set on a chalky base. A firm spine of acidity is well-meshed, wrapped in the refined mousse and carrying the profile through the lasting finish. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Disgorged October 2024. Drink now through 2030.—A.N.



ALFRED GRATIEN

Brut Rosé Champagne NV

93 points | \$65 | 1,000 cases imported | Rosé

This firm, focused Champagne shows pinpoint balance, offering a fine, chalky texture to swathe the chiseled spine of acidity and support the tang of tangerine and blood orange peel, pureed white peach and raspberry fruit, almond biscotti, mineral and lime blossom notes as they expand through the finish. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Disgorged January 2025. Drink now through 2030.—A.N.



AYALA

Brut Rosé Champagne Majeur NV

93 points | \$55 | Rosé

Fresh and harmonious, this well-tailored rosé Champagne integrates a rich vein of chalky minerality and finely honed acidity with the raw silk-like mousse and a lovely range of crunchy white peach, raspberry, chopped almond and candied ginger. Long and mineral on the creamy finish. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Disgorged June 2024. Drink now through 2030.—A.N.



WESTBORN

Rosé North Coast 2019

93 points | \$120 | 500 cases made | Rosé

Attractive and richly structured, with expressive flavors of strawberry, rose petal and toasty cinnamon that linger on the plush finish. Drink now.—T.F.

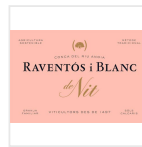


PAULA KORNELL

Brut Rosé California NV

91 points | \$25 | 5,000 cases made | Rosé

This sparkler is succulent yet crisp, offering creamy strawberry, graham cracker and spice flavors that sail on the refreshing finish. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Drink now.—*T.F.*



RAVENTÓS I BLANC

Brut Rosé Vino Espumoso de Nit 2023

90 points | \$30 | 9,000 cases imported | Rosé

Refreshing and focused, with a raw silk-like mousse and well-cut acidity enmeshed with flavors of white cherry, peach skin, smoked almond and broom blossoms. Xarel-lo, Macabeo, Parellada and Monastrell. Disgorged February 2025. Drink now.—*A.N.*

Blanc de Blancs



LILBERT FILS

Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Perle NV

95 points | \$119 | 50 cases imported | White

Like a piece of fine china, there's a delicacy to this vibrant, focused Champagne, with precision to its integration of chiseled acidity. Offers flavors of ripe yellow plum, apricot, lemon curd and salted Marcona almond. Fine and lacy in texture, with the minerally underpinning coming to the fore on the lasting finish. Disgorged Spring 2024. Drink now through 2035.—*A.N.*



SCHRAMSBERG

J. Schram Blancs North Coast 2016

95 points | \$150 | 2,043 cases made | White

Flamboyant and unapologetically California in style, this sparkler offers rich and succulent Asian pear and baked apple flavors accented with fresh brioche, yeasty nut roll and spice tones that lend a touch of opulence. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Drink now.—*T.F.*



DOMAINE CARNEROS

Blanc de Blancs Carneros Le Rêve 2017

94 points | \$128 | 1,800 cases made | White

Richly structured and gracefully layered, this sparkler is bountiful with Asian pear, apple, almond brioche and toasty spice flavors that unfurl on the lush finish. Drink now through 2027.—*T.F.*



BILLECART-SALMON

Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne NV

93 points | \$99 | White

A well-tailored Champagne, with precision to the integration of its chiseled acidity, fine, lacy texture and lovely range of patisserie apple and pear, lemon parfait, pickled ginger and white blossoms. A hint of marzipan enriches the lasting finish. Disgorged Spring 2024. Drink now through 2030.—*A.N.*



DELAMOTTE

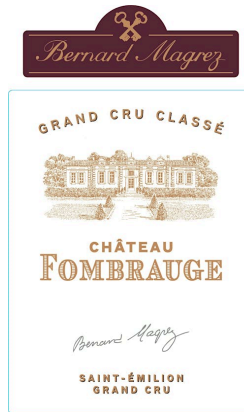
Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne NV

93 points | \$96 | 1,415 cases imported | White

A graceful Champagne, with fine length and focus. There's a creamy plushness to the finely detailed mousse, which carries flavors of baked white cherry, poached apricot, candied lemon peel, brioche and ginger as they expand on the palate and through the well-cut, lasting finish. Drink now through 2035.—*A.N.*

VALUE PICK OF

THE WEEK



CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE

St.-Emilion 2023

92 points | \$35 | 16,631 cases made | Red

Tasting Note:

A mix of gently mulled red and black currant fruit glides through with grace, as black tea, singed anise and warm earth hints filter through on the finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2027 through 2036.—*J.M.*

Hot Wines

These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors' most recent tastings, published exclusively in Wine Spectator Insider. They are high-scoring wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.



GIOVANNI SORDO

Barolo Monvigliero 2021

97 points | \$65 | 200 cases imported | Red

This red leans to the darker fruit side, boasting black cherry, blackberry and black currant flavors. Violet, graphite, and wild rosemary and thyme add depth as this cruises to the long aftertaste. There's plenty of grip, so give this time to open. Best from 2029 through 2048.—*B.S.*



AZELIA

Barolo Margheria 2021

96 points | \$144 | 245 cases imported | Red

Hay and fresh thyme aromas signal this red, matched to flavors of cherry, cranberry, strawberry and rose. Lithe and elegant, with tremendous staying power and a beam of red fruit that persists. Best from 2030 through 2050.—*B.S.*



GIOVANNI ROSSO

Barolo Cerretta 2021

96 points | \$150 | 150 cases imported | Red

Packed with cherry, raspberry, strawberry, rose and mineral flavors, this red is juicy and smooth, with civilized tannins lending support. Complex and lively, with a long, expansive finish. Shows superb balance and future potential. Best from 2029 through 2050.—*B.S.*



GIOVANNI SORDO

Barolo La Serra 2021

96 points | \$65 | 200 cases imported | Red

This is elegant, exuding red fruit flavors of raspberry, strawberry and cherry accented by rose and earth. Firms up yet stays nimble and lively through the extended finish. Best from 2030 through 2050.—*B.S.*



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Our tasting staff includes 15 tasters and tasting coordinators, who work together to review more than 16,000 wines each year; more than 450,000 reviews are currently available in our online database.

We always review wines in independent blind tastings. This is your guarantee that our reviews are fair and objective, and that a wine's reputation and price do not influence its score. Each taster covers specific wines and regions; their initials are appended to their reviews. Our credibility is built on their expertise and independence.

Wine Spectator's 100-Point Scale

95 - 100 Classic

80 - 84 Good

90 - 94 Outstanding

75 - 79 Mediocre

85 - 89 Very Good

**50 - 74 Not
Recommended**

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