

Sparkling *WITH* Style



A guide to the many flavors to explore. Plus, 100 recommended bottles from around the world | BY LARRY RUBIN

A symbol of luxury and celebration, a glass of sparkling wine holds cultural cachet. Yet despite its romance, bubbly in general remains somewhat underappreciated when compared with still wine. The typically higher price tags on even introductory versions can be a barrier for some consumers, and sparkling wine is a complex and diverse world of its own, with numerous traditions, techniques and stylistic

approaches that newcomers may find tricky to navigate.

Over the past year, *Wine Spectator* editors have tasted more than 400 sparkling wines from around the world, uncovering a compelling range at attractive price points. For those looking to enjoy the world of sparkling wine, let this story guide you through key terminology and distinctive wine styles to aid discovery and refine your selections.

*Photographs by Rachel Vanni
Photographed at Champers Social Club*

THE BASICS OF BRUT

More than 60% of the sparkling wines reviewed by *Wine Spectator* editors over the past year were labeled as Brut, reflecting the continued dominance of the Brut-level

dosage (see opposite page) around the globe. Legally these wines can fall anywhere in the range of 6–12 grams per liter (g/L) residual sugar, but 8–10 g/L is common, balancing dryness with a

touch of roundness. Bottlings of Brut offer more generosity and texture compared with the steely precision of Extra Brut or the razor-sharp intensity of Brut Nature wines (see page 100), making



them more accessible upon release.

Dosage is a crucial factor in shaping the style of a sparkling wine. The term refers to the small amount of sugar added before final packaging. *Dosage* can come in the form of a *liqueur d'expédition* (a blend of sugar and wine) or as concentrated, unfermented grape must. Although the idea of adding sweetness may be unappealing to those who prize dryness or to purists who reject any intervention, *dosage* is a traditional practice that is often an important step to producing a balanced wine.

Grapes used for sparkling wine are often harvested earlier than those for still wine, resulting in a base wine that is intensely acidic and austere. The careful addition of sugar helps temper this sharpness, ensuring the finished wine is harmonious.

Across Brut and other levels of *dosage*, look for additional style designations such as Blanc de Blancs or Blanc de Noirs on bottlings; these terms indicate wines with distinctive and recognizable characteristics related to the use of certain grape varieties for production.

| Sparkling Wine Sweetness Scale | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| CATEGORY | RESIDUAL SUGAR* | DESCRIPTION | OTHER COMMON LABEL TERMS |
| Brut Nature | 0–3 | No dosage | Dosage Zéro |
| Extra Brut | 0–6 | Very dry | N/A |
| Brut | 0–12 | Dry | N/A |
| Extra-Dry | 12–17 | Off-dry | Extra Sec |
| Dry | 17–32 | Lightly sweet | Sec |
| Demi-Sec | 32–50 | Medium sweet | N/A |
| Doux | 50+ | Frankly sweet | N/A |
| *grams per liter; EU regulations allow for a deviation of +/- 3 g/L | | | |

| WINE | SCORE | PRICE |
|--|-------|-------|
| PIPER-HEIDSIECK Brut Champagne Rare 2012 | 96 | \$250 |
| ALFRED GRATIEN Brut Champagne Cuvée Paradis 2016 | 95 | \$125 |
| ROEDERER ESTATE Brut Anderson Valley L'Ermitage Late Disgorged 2006 | 95 | \$120 |
| LOUIS ROEDERER Brut Champagne 2016 | 94 | \$110 |
| VILMART Brut Champagne Grand Cellier NV | 94 | \$83 |
| BELLAVISTA Brut Franciacorta La Scala 2019 | 93 | \$47 |
| GOSSET Brut Champagne Grande Réserve NV | 93 | \$64 |
| JEAN-NOËL HATON Brut Champagne Noble Vintage 2018 | 93 | \$65 |
| ROEDERER ESTATE Brut Anderson Valley NV | 93 | \$32 |
| ARGYLE Brut Willamette Valley Vintage 2019 | 92 | \$30 |
| DEUTZ Brut Champagne Classic NV | 92 | \$59 |
| MOËT & CHANDON Brut Champagne Impérial NV | 92 | \$48 |
| IRON HORSE Brut Green Valley of Russian River Valley Classic Vintage 2020 | 91 | \$58 |
| RUGGERI & C. Brut Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartizze 2023 | 91 | \$40 |
| SCHRAMSBERG Brut North Coast Mirabelle 33rd Bottling NV | 91 | \$31 |
| MASOTTINA Brut Conegliano Valdobbiadene Superiore RDO Rive di Ogliano Ponente 2023 | 90 | \$30 |
| LE COLTURE Brut Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore Fagher NV | 89 | \$20 |
| ROGER GOULART Brut Cava Organic Reserva 2021 | 89 | \$25 |
| MUMM NAPA Brut California Prestige NV | 89 | \$24 |
| MURÉ Brut Crémant d'Alsace Cuvée Prestige NV | 89 | \$30 |
| VEUVE AMBAL Brut Crémant de Bourgogne Grande Cuvée NV | 89 | \$20 |
| RUGGERI & C. Brut Prosecco Treviso Argeo NV | 88 | \$18 |

Blanc de Blancs, Blanc de Noirs & Satèn

As with any wine, grape composition is key. Champagne has adopted two widely recognized terms to denote grape composition: Blanc de Blancs (“white of whites”) and Blanc de Noirs (“white of blacks”), referring to white sparkling wines made entirely from white or red grapes, respectively. Blancs de Blancs often show vivid acidity, elegance and integration, and the best examples are long-lived in the cellar. Blanc de Noirs wines are typically fuller-bodied, with notable berry and cherry fruit flavors accompanied by savory undertones. While many producers worldwide use these terms in adherence to Champagne’s traditional styles of 100% Chardonnay or 100% red varieties, interpretations can vary.

In the Lombardy region of northern Italy, for example, Satèn wines from the small appellation of Franciacorta represent a local take on Blanc de Blancs. In order to be labeled Satèn, the wine can only blend two white grapes: Chardonnay, with up to 50% Pinot Bianco. Satèn is also produced with a bottle pressure of 5 atmospheres—lower than the 6 atmospheres typical for most traditional method sparklers. The resulting wines are vibrant and have a fine, creamy mouthfeel.

| WINE | SCORE | PRICE |
|--|-------|-------|
| TAITTINGER Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Comtes de Champagne 2013 | 96 | \$280 |
| DELAMOTTE Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne 2018 | 95 | \$165 |
| PIERRE GIMONNET & FILS Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Cuis NV | 93 | \$62 |
| HENRIOT Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne NV | 93 | \$80 |
| SCHRAMSBERG Brut Blanc de Noirs North Coast 2021 | 93 | \$46 |
| GUIDO BERLUCCHI Brut Franciacorta Satèn NV | 92 | \$45 |
| GONET-MÉDEVILLE Brut Blanc de Noirs Champagne NV | 92 | \$54 |
| MARC HÉBRART Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne NV | 92 | \$60 |
| FERRARI Brut Trento Perlé 2017 | 91 | \$51 |
| SCHRAMSBERG Brut Blanc de Blancs North Coast 2021 | 91 | \$44 |
| LA MONTINA Brut Franciacorta Satèn NV | 90 | \$32 |



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SUGAR STEPS ASIDE: EXTRA BRUT & BRUT NATURE

The rising popularity of wines with no or low *dosage* is driven by a surge of consumer enthusiasm for drier styles but also by the impacts of climate change. Champagne, the wine world's most northerly major production region, has been significantly affected. Over the past 60 years, the region's climate classification has shifted from "cool" to "moderate." In the past, successful vintages were more of a rarity. Today, however, conditions during the growing season regularly yield fully ripened grapes, supporting lower *dosage* levels.

According to EU regulations, Extra Brut wines may receive a small *dosage* but must be bottled with less than 6 g/L residual sugar. Brut Nature wines cannot receive a *dosage* at all and must not exceed 3 g/L residual sugar. To balance the austere character of these styles, some winemakers opt for extended lees aging, partial malolactic fermentation and/or additional bottle aging to soften the mouthfeel. With their firm, acidic frame, many examples can benefit from a year or two in the cellar. But in the hands of a capable *chef de cave*, a youthful bottle makes for a fine aperitif or pairs well with cuisines that enjoy a spritz of lemon.



The Sweet Life

Lower-*dosage* wines aren't for everyone. For some, the bracing acidity of a *dosage* zéro may be palate fatiguing. As an alternative, look to the plump juiciness of bottlings with an Extra Dry *dosage*. Despite the name, this category is actually sweeter than Brut—and it has gained popularity via the many fruit-forward, affordable Prosecco DOC offerings. Sparkling wines labeled simply Dry are sweeter still, with 17–32 g/L residual sugar. Their plush mouthfeel pairs well with spicy dishes or moderately sweet desserts.

| WINE | SCORE | PRICE |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| DESIDERIO BISOL & FIGLI Dry Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartizze 2023 | 92 | \$57 |
| LE COLTURE Dry Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore di Cartizze NV | 91 | \$28 |
| MASOTTINA Extra Dry Conegliano Valdobbiadene Superiore RDO Rive di Ogliono Levante 2023 | 91 | \$30 |
| RUGGERI & C. Extra Dry Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore Giustino B. 2023 | 91 | \$40 |
| MIONETTO Dry Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartizze NV | 90 | \$35 |
| RUGGERI & C. Extra Dry Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore Giall'Oro NV | 89 | \$25 |
| TENUTA PEDERZANA Semiseco Lambrusco dell'Emilia Margherita 2022 | 89 | \$23 |

| WINE | SCORE | PRICE |
|--|-----------|--------------|
| GOSSET Extra Brut Champagne 21 Ans de Cave a Minima NV | 96 | \$200 |
| RUINART Brut Nature Chardonnay Champagne Blanc Singulier Édition 19 NV | 95 | \$220 |
| CA' DEL BOSCO Dosage Zéro Franciacorta Annamaria Clementi Riserva 2015 | 94 | \$120 |
| FERRARI Extra Brut Trento Giulio Ferrari Riserva del Fondatore 2012 | 94 | \$190 |
| DOMAINE LES MONTS FOURNOIS Extra Brut Champagne Vallée 130 Mois de Cave NV | 94 | \$125 |
| PHILIPPONNAT Extra Brut Blanc de Noirs Champagne 2018 | 94 | \$135 |
| BELLAVISTA Extra Brut Franciacorta Alma Assemblage 1 NV | 93 | \$40 |
| CHARTOGNE-TAILLET Extra Brut Champagne Ste.-Anne NV | 93 | \$70 |
| VALENTIN LEFLAIVE Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Sigma 20 4.0 NV | 93 | \$91 |
| SOTER Extra Brut Willamette Valley Reserve NV | 93 | \$70 |
| BARTH Brut Nature Riesling Rheingau Hattenheim Hassel 2014 | 92 | \$80 |
| CA' DEL BOSCO Extra Brut Franciacorta Cuvée Prestige 47 Edizione NV | 92 | \$45 |
| GAMET Extra Brut Blanc de Noirs Champagne Rive Droite NV | 92 | \$50 |
| ETTORE GERMANO Extra Brut Alta Langa 2020 | 92 | \$40 |
| LOIMER Brut Nature Blanc de Blancs Sekt Austria Langenlois Grosse Reserve NV | 92 | \$74 |
| MOUSSÉ FILS Extra Brut Champagne Eugène NV | 92 | \$70 |
| RAVENTÓS I BLANC Brut Nature Vino Espumoso de la Finca 2021 | 92 | \$42 |
| GUIDO BERLUCCHI Extra Brut Franciacorta '61 NV | 91 | \$39 |
| JUVÉ Y CAMPS Brut Nature Cava Reserva de la Familia Gran Reserva 2019 | 91 | \$25 |
| RAVENTÓS I BLANC Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Vino Espumoso 2022 | 91 | \$25 |
| DOMAINE DE LA TAILLE AUX LOUPS Montlouis Sur Loire Triple Zéro NV | 91 | \$37 |
| BARONE PIZZINI Brut Nature Franciacorta Animante NV | 90 | \$40 |
| FRANÇOIS CHIDAINE Brut Nature Montlouis Sur Loire Méthode Traditionnelle 2020 | 90 | \$35 |
| NICOLAS FEUILLATTE Extra Brut Champagne Réserve Exclusive NV | 90 | \$45 |
| ROGER GOULART Extra Brut Cava Gran Reserva 2020 | 90 | \$27 |
| FERMÍ BOHIGAS Extra Brut Cava Gran Reserva 2020 | 88 | \$25 |
| EL CEP Brut Nature Blanc de Blancs Cava Gelida Gran Reserva 2019 | 88 | \$24 |

IN THE PINK: BUBBLY ROSÉS

As a group, sparkling rosés offer tremendous diversity, with personalities shaped by grape blends and *dosage* levels as well as skin contact during production. Pale pink versions can be as chalky and precise as the most austere white, while more deeply hued examples offer smoky red fruit and herbal notes and noticeable tannins.

There are two methods for giving these wines their color: blending and *saignée*. In still winemaking, blending white and red wines to create a rosé is rare, but in the sparkling wine world, it is the most common approach. A more limited number are produced using the *saignée* method. This technique typically crafts more deeply hued rosés by soaking crushed grapes with their skins until the juice absorbs enough pigment, tannins and flavor to suit the winemaker; it's then bled off the skins.

Sparkling rosés are often more expensive than their white counterparts due to the additional labor required in their



production; top producers also utilize red grapes harvested with the desired level of color and ripeness, often indicating lower yields—which represents a cost potentially passed on to the consumer.

Despite their steeper price tags, sparkling rosés have become increasingly

popular in recent decades, driven in part by powerhouse brands but also by small growers. Sommeliers leverage bubbly's luxurious appeal with rosé's food-friendly versatility; pale versions pair beautifully with oysters, while fuller, *saignée* styles can match a grilled steak.

| WINE | SCORE | PRICE |
|---|-------|-------|
| BOLLINGER Brut Rosé Champagne La Grande Année 2015 | 97 | \$307 |
| BILLECART-SALMON Brut Rosé Champagne Elisabeth Salmon 2012 | 95 | \$230 |
| CA' DEL BOSCO Extra Brut Rosé Franciacorta Annamaria Clementi Riserva 2015 | 94 | \$120 |
| CHARTOGNE-TAILLET Brut Rosé Champagne NV | 93 | \$82 |
| GLORIA FERRER Rosé Carneros Carneros Cuvée Late Disgorged 2018 | 93 | \$95 |
| PERRIER-JOUËT Brut Rosé Champagne Blason NV | 93 | \$75 |
| DOMAINE CHANDON Pinot Noir Los Carneros Rosé Réserve NV | 92 | \$43 |
| FERRARI Brut Rosé Trento Perlé Riserva 2017 | 92 | \$74 |
| NICOLAS FEUILLATTE Brut Rosé Champagne Réserve Exclusive NV | 92 | \$55 |
| GAMET Brut Rosé Champagne NV | 92 | \$53 |
| IRON HORSE Brut Rosé Green Valley of Russian River Valley 2019 | 92 | \$75 |
| PIPER-HEIDSIECK Brut Rosé Champagne Sauvage NV | 92 | \$75 |
| ROEDERER ESTATE Brut Rosé Anderson Valley NV | 92 | \$39 |
| MONTAUDON Brut Rosé Champagne La Grande Rose NV | 91 | \$53 |
| MUMM NAPA Brut Rosé California NV | 91 | \$24 |
| CANARD-DUCHÊNE Brut Rosé Champagne NV | 90 | \$54 |
| LE COLTURE Brut Rosé Prosecco 2022 | 90 | \$16 |
| JUVÉ Y CAMPS Brut Rosé Pinot Noir Cava Essential NV | 90 | \$25 |
| LLOPART Brut Rosé Vino Espumoso Corpinnat Reserva 2021 | 90 | \$32 |
| RAVENTÓS I BLANC Brut Rosé Vino Espumoso de Nit 2022 | 90 | \$28 |
| EL CEP Brut Rosé Pinot Noir Cava Gelida Reserva 2021 | 89 | \$24 |
| SOTER Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Rosé Planet Oregon 2023 | 89 | \$24 |
| VEUVE AMBAL Brut Rosé Crémant de Bourgogne Grande Cuvée NV | 89 | \$20 |
| VALDO Brut Rosé Prosecco Marca Oro 2023 | 88 | \$15 |

Lambrusco

Primarily produced in Emilia-Romagna from a family of grapes sharing its name, Lambrusco offers bright, balsamiclike tartness, dark fruit and herb flavors, and gentle effervescence. Once a unique local specialty, these dry reds have gained appeal abroad as an aperitif, often paired with light snacks.

| WINE | SCORE | PRICE |
|--|-------|-------|
| MEDICI ERMETE Secco Lambrusco Reggiano Arte e Concerto 2023 | 90 | \$26 |
| PALTRINIERI Secco Lambrusco di Sorbara Radice 2023 | 90 | \$24 |
| CLETO CHIARLI E FIGLI Secco Lambrusco di Sorbara del Fondatore 2023 | 89 | \$21 |
| CLETO CHIARLI E FIGLI Secco Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro Nero Noir 2023 | 89 | \$18 |
| PALTRINIERI Secco Lambrusco di Sorbara Leclisse 2023 | 89 | \$25 |
| LINI ORESTE & FIGLI Lambrusco dell'Emilia Red Labrusca 910 NV | 88 | \$17 |
| LINI ORESTE & FIGLI Lambrusco dell'Emilia Rosé Labrusca 910 NV | 88 | \$17 |
| MEDICI ERMETE Reggiano Lambrusco Quercioli NV | 88 | \$13 |

90 Marimar Estate Chardonnay Russian River Valley Don Miguel Vineyard Acero Unoaked 2023 \$38 Light and fresh, with a core of lemon sorbet, grapefruit zest, tangerine and lemon blossoms on a juicy frame. Shows refreshing persistence and a hint of sea salt on the finish. Drink now. 648 cases made.—*M.W.*

90 Marimar Estate Chardonnay Russian River Valley La Masía Don Miguel Vineyard 2022 \$54 A juicy version, showing plenty of energy behind its pear, Meyer lemon and Honeycrisp apple flavors, which are vibrant and aromatic. Touches of lemongrass and lemon balm reverberate on the finish, with a hint of toasted brioche. Drink now. 867 cases made.—*M.W.*

90 Raeburn Chardonnay Russian River Valley High Flier 2022 \$30 Strikes a delicate balance between richness and freshness, with touches of crystallized sugar, salted butter and candied ginger peel. Shows sleek, juicy acidity and plenty of pop on the finish, where tangerine, lemon and peach flavors shine. Drink now. 7,000 cases made.—*M.W.*

90 Rombauer Chardonnay Carneros 2023 \$42 There's plenty of energy to the juicy and plump core of tangerine, mango and peach. Shows a distinctive spice note, with clove, cardamom and nutmeg making this distinctive, especially on the finish, which mingles seamlessly with toasted, buttery brioche details. Drink now. 349,220 cases made.—*M.W.*

90 Talbott Chardonnay Santa Lucia Highlands Sleepy Hollow Vineyard 2022 \$45 Rich and distinctive, with grilled pineapple, Meyer lemon and smoked butterscotch details that add depth to the core of pear, lemon and quince flavors. A fresh thread of acidity and notes of toasted herbs linger. Drink now. 9,500 cases made.—*M.W.*

89 J. Lohr Chardonnay Arroyo Seco Riverstone 2023 \$14 See Best Values, page 114.

89 Ron Rubin Chardonnay Russian River Valley 2023 \$20 Pear, yellow apple, orange zest and lemon curd flavors are vibrant and juicy on a light frame. Details of lemon blossoms, white pepper and shiso leaf add complexity, and the finish is bright and mouthwatering. Drink now. 2,314 cases made.—*M.W.*

88 Charles Krug Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros 2023 \$26 There's an appealing ripeness to the fleshy melon, mango, baked apple and apricot flavors. Toasted herb details and a touch of toasted sesame add a savory note on the finish. Drink now. 8,500 cases made.—*M.W.*

CALIFORNIA Pinot Noir

93 Dehlinger Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Garbro Ranch 2023 \$50 Offers succulence right from the start, with blood orange, pomegranate and damson plum coulis notes that stretch out nicely, while lilac and iris accents chime in. Bright finish. Best from 2026 through 2031. 255 cases made.—*J.M.*

91 Alma Rosa Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Elevado 2022 \$90 This shows good tension for the vintage, with a ripple of acidity holding together the generous core of blackberry and black cherry fruit, which is laced with mulling spice and black tea notes. Drink now through 2027. 525 cases made.—*J.M.*

91 Dehlinger Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Altamont 2022 \$65 Juicy and forward, with a display of mulberry and cherry compote flavors backed by anise and hibiscus notes. A light flash of apple wood gives the finish a nice frame. Drink now through 2028. 655 cases made.—*J.M.*

90 DNA Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2022 \$25 Ripe and juicy, with up-front red and black cherry compote notes laced with a licorice streak. There's a

savory tingle on the finish. Drink now through 2028. 1,998 cases made.—*J.M.*

90 Foursight Wines Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Charles Vineyard 2022 \$58 Cherry and strawberry notes are friendly and juicy in feel, with a lightweight structure, plus hints of rose hip and sandalwood through the pretty finish. Drink now through 2027. 375 cases made.—*J.M.*

90 Gust Pinot Noir Petaluma Gap 2022 \$45 This offers up silky, gently mulled blood orange and raspberry fruit that is soft and focused in feel, with light sandalwood, tea and savory notes filtering through. An understated style. Drink now through 2026. 500 cases made.—*J.M.*

90 Ram's Gate Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Gap's Crown Vineyard 2022 \$80 This is up-front, with a moderately juicy core of strawberry, raspberry and cherry preserves laced with rose hip and sandalwood through the finish. Drink now through 2027. 572 cases made.—*J.M.*

89 Gary Farrell Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Russian River Selection 2022 \$50 Singed red tea and sandalwood hints help guide the slightly demure core of cherry and raspberry fruit along. A savory note permeates the slightly soft finish. Drink now through 2027. 11,204 cases made.—*J.M.*

89 Horse & Plow Pinot Noir Russian River Valley The Gardener 2022 \$45 This delivers the vintage's telltale plump, up-front burst of friendly kirsch and cherry preserves, which loses some steam through the finish as hints of licorice and rose hip linger. Drink now through 2027. 300 cases made.—*J.M.*

CALIFORNIA Zinfandel & Blends

94 Aperture 1912 Estate Vineyard Russian River Valley 2022 \$90 An old-school field blend meets a modern, polished style in this red, which offers rich and detailed flavors of blackberry and cherry laced with savory herb, orange peel, bitter chocolate and pepper tones. Zinfandel, Mourvèdre, Carignane, Petit Sirah, Grenache and Sémillon. Drink now through 2034. 400 cases made.—*T.F.*

93 Gary Farrell Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Grist Vineyard 2021 \$55 A briary red, loaded with pepper, plus sleek and polished flavors of cherry, raspberry and savory anise that speed toward lively and fresh tannins. Drink now through 2031. 340 cases made.—*T.F.*

93 St. Francis Zinfandel Sonoma County Tres Viejos Artisan Collection 2022 \$54 Expressive and zesty, with wild berry, briar patch, roasted sage and white pepper flavors that gather richness and tension toward lively tannins. Drink now through 2032. 1,100 cases made.—*T.F.*

92 St. Francis Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Artisan Collection 2022 \$50 Vibrant and zesty, with multilayered cherry and wild berry flavors that take on roasted sage and green peppercorn accents as this builds toward briary tannins. Drink now through 2032. 900 cases made.—*T.F.*

90 Flambeaux Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Flambeaux Vineyard 2021 \$60 Plush and soft, with graceful accents of raspberry, cherry, vanilla and briar patch that glide on the sleek finish. Drink now through 2030. 411 cases made.—*T.F.*

89 St. Francis Zinfandel Sonoma County Old Vines 2022 \$22 Jammy and generous, with appealing cherry pie, grilled anise and spice flavors that end on a zesty accent. Drink now through 2032. 35,000 cases made.—*T.F.*

CALIFORNIA Sparkling

95 Roederer Estate Brut Rosé Anderson Valley L'Ermitage 2019 \$115 A gorgeous sparkler that's flush with character yet elegant and refined, with crisp strawberry and red apple flavors laced with gingerbread, roasted nut and rose petal tones that sail on the finish. Drink now through 2030. 460 cases made.—*T.F.*

94 Devil Proof Cima Ladera Farrow Ranch Alexander Valley 2021 \$225 Succulent and generous, offering dark chocolate-covered maraschino cherry and date nut bread, with notes of violet, blueberry preserves and toasted cardamom, plus German chocolate cake details. The dense flavors mingle with juicy acidity and tannins that add plenty of grip on the finish. Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2034. 580 cases made.—*M.W.*

94 Roederer Estate Brut Anderson Valley L'Ermitage 2019 \$80 Dynamic yet elegantly structured, with alluring flavors of Asian pear, baked apple, brioche, clove and nutmeg that build richness on the graceful finish. Drink now through 2027. 4,850 cases made.—*T.F.*

94 Schramsberg Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs North Coast 2020 \$70 This seductive and expressive sparkler offers notes of yeast roll, lemon, baked apple and toasted, spiced nuts that sail on the dry but luxurious finish. Drink now through 2027. 596 cases made.—*T.F.*



SEAN THOMPSON
Winemaker

94 Schramsberg J. Schram Noirs North Coast 2015 \$150 Opulent and almost extravagant in style, with rich flavors of baked apple and Asian pear accented by cherry, brioche, roasted hazelnut and toasty spices that linger on the crisp finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Drink now through 2027. 1,765 cases made.—*T.F.*

93 Roederer Estate Anderson Valley Apple Alley Vineyard 2020 \$55 Precise and alluring, with elegantly layered apple, citrus, blanched almond and lemon custard flavors that finish on a refreshing, steely accent. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Drink now. 585 cases made.—*T.F.*

93 Schramsberg Brut Blanc de Blancs North Coast Late Disgorged 2013 \$110 Bright and fresh but with an appealing sheen of maturity, this sparkler offers Asian pear, roasted almond and cinnamon brioche accents that build richness on the lush finish. Drink now. 1,109 cases made.—*T.F.*

93 Schramsberg Brut Rosé Napa Valley Querencia 2020 \$80 Graceful and delicate, with pretty flavors of rose petal, strawberry, fresh ginger and spices that sail on the long and lovely finish. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Drink now. 1,512 cases made.—*T.F.*

93 Schramsberg Brut Rosé North Coast 2021 \$50 A lovely blush that's refined and festive, with vibrant strawberry, orange blossom and cherry flavors that glide on the refreshing finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Drink now. 16,828 cases made.—*T.F.*

93 Schramsberg North Coast Reserve Late Disgorged 2007 \$225 Mature and full of character, with a touch of gold in the hue, showing rich caramel, cinnamon roll, roasted hazelnut and candied ginger flavors that linger on the decadent finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Drink now. 234 cases made.—*T.F.*

93 Schramsberg Rosé North Coast J. Schram 2016 \$190 Plush and rich in texture, with enticing cherry and lemon flavors accented by candied ginger, cinnamon roll and roasted nut tones as this glides on the luxurious finish. Drink now. 1,438 cases made.—*T.F.*