

# VINEPAIR

## The Best Champagne Right Now (UPDATED 2021)

words: VINEPAIR STAFF

illustration: ARIELA BASSON

Champagne is the ultimate celebration wine, but its premium price tag can sometimes be intimidating. To help make sure you're shelling out for the right bottle, we've compiled a list of the best Champagnes to buy right now, whether your special occasion splurge is well over \$100 or taps out at \$50.

The bottles on this list range from classic blends made from Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Meunier; to sparkling rosés and blanc de blancs. Prices stretch from a reasonable \$44 for entry-level, non-vintage bubbles, to \$100 and up for premium vintage offerings and prestige cuvees.

All bubbles here were judged non-blind by VinePair's tasting panel. Because we taste wines regularly, and we think sipping Champagne should be a year-round experience, we continually update this ranking. That means we regularly add new bottles, but also, occasionally, have to remove previous favorites whose current releases don't match up to prior incarnations.

**Here is VinePair's list of the best Champagnes to buy right now, last updated on December 22, 2021.**

### UNDER \$100

#### CHAMPAGNE AYALA LE BLANC DE BLANCS 2015 (\$90)



A classic blanc de blancs, this sparkler has an inviting, cheesy aroma, with an ideal balance on the palate. Its acidity is just right, with residual sugars calmed down by effervescent bubbles. For a vintage Champagne, its price is right, and its quaffable characteristics make it worth the spend.

**OVER \$100**

**CHAMPAGNE BOLLINGER LA GRANDE ANNÉE 2012  
(\$155)**



A vintage wine not lacking in character, this Champagne leans toward savory flavors rather than fruity ones — giving off intriguing notes of dill, lemon, and capers. It's creamy on the palate, rounded on the edges, and is still evolving in the bottle. You could lay this down to age for a few more years, but it's drinking beautifully now — especially alongside salty snacks.

## CHAMPAGNE BOLLINGER R.D. 2007 (\$300)



This 2007 Bollinger smells brilliant on the nose, with aromas of creamy sherry and French vanilla bursting from the glass. Almost 15 years of aging has imparted a decadence and depth to this wine, bringing in a sweet nuttiness that invites you back for another sip. This bottle would make for a most exceptional gift or one to save for extra special occasions.