

# Sunset

## Swap Champagne for Western Sparkling Wines on New Year's Eve

*With Rosés, fruity reds, and dry whites, Western winemakers have the sparkling wines to bring some variety and new flavor to your toasts this year.*

With New Year's Eve just weeks away, it's about time to stock up on celebratory bubbles. But it might be a bit difficult to get your hands on Champagne this year. European wine producers are facing rising prices and shipping delays, meaning you may need to switch it up. Luckily, the West is home to scores of winemakers producing delicious [sparkling wines](#).

Before we get into the wines, let us first explain the problem: The ongoing pandemic has made [supply line issues](#) and shipping delays part of the norm. The International Monetary Fund, which tracks delivery times, reports [record highs](#) since late 2020 in both the United States and Europe due to increased demand and continued supply constraints. With the particularly heightened demand during the holiday season, the IMF doesn't see delivery times improving any time soon. And with New Year's Eve looming, it seems the problem may affect the all-important drink to close out the year: [Champagne](#).

Yes, we may be on the verge of a [Champagne shortage](#), according to the *Washington Post*, but not only due to [supply lines](#). The Comité Champagne, a trade body that oversees the French region, reduced the amount of Champagne that can be produced per acre due to a significant drop in demand at the beginning of the pandemic, the *Washington Post* reports. That change and weather effects including a cold snap, rain and mildew, and a hail storm, severely reduced production in 2020 and 2021.

While the *Washington Post* says the direct effects won't fully be felt for a couple years thanks to the aging process, the effects on the [wine](#) market are already here. Champagne prices are [rising](#), and while Spanish Cava and Italian Prosecco remain cheaper options, all three are still affected by the delays in container shipping.

So to get around all of that, you can turn to American vineyards for your New Year's Eve bubbly. From bright rosés to crisp sparkling whites, the West's winemakers have a great selection for you to pop open and celebrate the holidays.

## Iron Horse 2018 Classic Vintage Brut



Courtesy of Iron Horse Vineyards

This vintage is the latest in a line of what Iron Horse considers its flagship bubbly. A specialized aging process gives the wine extra richness, while the vineyard's grapes grown in California's Green Valley give it a distinct fruit flavor that is signature to Iron Horse wines.