

elite traveler

The Best Champagne Brands to Try This Year

Present at virtually every wedding, gala, ball and banquet, few can boast a social calendar like champagne. Epitomizing a life of luxury and lavishness, few other drinks live up to the swine itself, nor the image it conveys. No matter the upcoming occasion (not that we think you need it to pop a bottle), these are the very best champagne brands that should find a home in your collection. Despite its grandeur, champagne is actually a remarkable subtle drink with a delicate fizz of bubbles and gentle toasty flavors coming together to create a wine that can be mercilessly sipped all night long. The creation of champagne is far more laborious, however. Made exclusively in the Champagne region of France, the history and heritage of champagne go back over 300 years; for many champagne houses (or Maisons), the process hasn't changed – and making it is still one of the most labor-intensive and complex methods of wine production. With this in mind, we are highlighting a handpicked selection of Maisons that deserve recognition for their relentless efforts. Whether you are choosing a bottle for an upcoming event or a collector looking for a new vintage, these are the best champagne brands to try this year.

Bollinger



Another Maison that holds a Royal Warrant (it has held one since 1884), Bollinger's ties with the UK go a step further, into the realms of fiction: it is the official champagne of 007 and is known to be James Bond's favorite. Founded in 1829, Bollinger is a Maison that strives to create complex and elegant champagnes; its flagship bottle is the Special Cuvée, which features flavors of apples and pears, with a subtle honey undertone. In fact, in celebration of its 40-year partnership with 007, Bollinger has produced a limited edition gift box that brings the Special Cuvée with James Bond and the Aston Martin DB5.