

UPROXX

Classic Bottles Of Champagne, Ranked



NYE is coming fast. Most years, there are events and parties to choose from. **Festivals to attend** and planes to catch. In 2020, people in most states are on their own. That means that it's time to start chilling the **champagne**.

Picking a bottle of champagne for ringing in the New Year is no small task. **Champagne** (the real stuff from France) isn't exactly cheap. That said, it doesn't always need to be pricey, either — **you can get a lot for under \$80**. And if you want a classic bottle — whether it's for toasting **or mixing cocktails** — we're about to give you our favorites.

A word or two on the methodology of this list. One, we're only talking about *actual* champagne, made in Champagne, France. While U.S. producers like to slap the word "Champagne" onto their **sparkling wines**, those aren't champagne (and it's still kind of a dick move for U.S. producers to do that). Two, we're going mostly on taste with this list. We're looking at how much we want to drink the stuff. In the end, the price was a bit of a factor in two bottles — one was ranked higher due to its excellent price tag while another missed the first place slot due to being needlessly expensive.

1. Bollinger Special Cuvee Brut



Average Price: \$65

The Champagne:

Bollinger has spent centuries becoming the icon it is today. The wine got a huge boost when it became the champagne of Queen Victoria's court in the late 1800s, which led to it being the official drink of Ian Fleming's James Bond. Thanks to the guidance of Lily Bollinger post-WWII, the brand became the champagne the adventurers, jet-setters, and what the so-called cool kids drank.

Tasting Notes:

This draws you in with a sense of over-ripe peaches next to tart apples stewed with dark spices and wine. That spice and apple bring about an almost apple butter feel as the svelte nature of the sip leads towards a brioche loaded with walnuts and that spiced stewed apple next to a buttery foundation.

This is just smooth, subtly bubbly, and just the right amount of dry on the finish.

Bottom Line:

This 100 percent lives up to the hype. It really is that well-rounded, quaffable, and delightful. Cheers! Someone queue up *Auld Lang Syne*.