

TASTING ROOM

## 6 Great Sparkling Wines for Summer

BY RAY ISLE | POSTED AUGUST 7, 2015 AT 2:34PM EDT



Courtesy of Campo Viejo I had the pleasure of being on CNBC's *On the Money* the other day, chatting with host Becky Quick about great sparkling wines for summer (the clip is [here](#)). The nature of TV is that appearances like that one only run about three minutes or so—not enough time to mention more than a couple of wines. Since I'm a huge fan of popping open bottles of bubbly during the warm months, here are several other great possibilities:

**Buy It With a \$20:**

*NV Campo Viejo Cava Brut Reserva (\$13)* A surprisingly good Cava given that it's from a producer much better known for Riojas, this refined sparkling wine offers bright green apple flavors and a dry, lightly saline finish.

*NV Cleto Charli Lambrusco Vecchia Modena (\$16)* Crisp, dry and even slightly tannic (in a good way), this red sparkling wine from Italy would be ideal with ribs or burgers.

**Bring It to a Party:**

*NV François Pinon Vouvray Brut (\$22)* Loire sparkling wines tend to get overlooked, which is a shame. The best, like this one, offer crisp orchard fruit notes and a nice nuttiness on the finish; Pinon's grapes are also organically farmed.

*NV J Vineyards Cuvée 20 (\$28)* Even California's cooler regions, like the Russian River Valley, bring out more richness and fruitiness in sparkling wines than Champagne's marginal climate does. This bottling from J is no exception, with its lush citrus and toast notes.

**Splurge for a Special Occasion:**

*NV Drappier Brut Nature Champagne (\$50)* One of the most well-known producers in the southern Aube region of Champagne, Drappier makes a range of very good Champagnes; this vivid, lemon blossom-scented cuvée is impressive for the price.

*NV Andre Clouet Grand Reserve Brut Champagne (\$45)* Clouet's vineyards are located in the Pinot Noir-focused villages of Ambonnay and Bouzy, so it's no surprise that this bisecuity, creamy Champagne, with its notes of red fruit, is made from 100 percent Pinot Noir.

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