

WINE COLUMN

By Graham Simpson, Whitmore & White

Fantastic Fizz

Well with the summer in full flow and the sun set to shine for a little while longer, I think that is cause for celebration and what better way than with some fizz? Classically, Champagne is the one to go to when celebrating but there are some absolute crackers out there at half the cost.

Let's have a look at a few.

Passaparola Prosecco £14.50

Prosecco is still the go-to fizz in the UK at the moment. It's light. It's delicate, and it is usually just on the off side of dry which makes it very appealing to a larger part of the drinking populous. This Prosecco is a best seller for us here at W&W. The bottle design is contemporary and the wine inside is good juice too. A great fizz to celebrate the start of the week.

Vilarnau Cava Brut NV £12.95

This is our 'house' sparkling wine and on pour by the glass in both our West Kirby and Frodsham stores. It's made by the same method they use to make Champagne, only using local grapes. The bottle design is inspired by the Spanish artist Gaudi, and the bottles are certainly pleasing to the eye. Most importantly, the wine inside the bottle is quality. A lovely sparkling wine to give as a gift or open up when the day ends in a 'y'.

Bellavista 'Cuvee Alma' Franciacorta £32.95

This could be called the 'Italian Champagne'. Whereas Prosecco is made in large tanks and the carbon dioxide added to give the sparkling nature, Franciacorta wines are made in exactly the same way they make Champagne and aged in the same manner before being released onto the market. This makes for a serious, deeply complex wine and every bit as good as many more expensive and well-known Champagne brands. This is a lovely wine to celebrate the start of an Italian-themed dinner party.

Bride Valley Blanc de Blancs £34.95

English sparkling wines have been on the up and up now for well over 20 years. The quality of the grapes on the vines (subject to the UK weather obviously) and the subsequent winemaking (made using the same grapes and to the same method as Champagne) is getting better and better. Some Champagne houses are even investing in English vineyards, so that speaks volumes. This estate is owned by eminent wine guru Steven Spurrier and has been producing quality fizz since 2011. This is a great fizz to celebrate England winning at football/rugby/cricket/dominoes (delete as appropriate).

Deutz Brut Classic NV £39.95

It would be wrong to completely leave out Champagne. Yes there are some great fizzes out there that are better value for money than many Champagnes, but sometimes one just sits up and goes "Hello? Hello? Erm... yes I'm here! Please try me, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised". This one by the lovely Champagne house, Deutz, is one of those Champagnes. Absolutely stunning and perfect for any occasion.

That's it for this month. Remember to drink well, but drink responsibly.



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