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Vinography Unboxed: Week of May 7, 2017

Hello, and welcome to my periodic dig through the samples pile. I'm pleased to bring you the latest installment of Vinography Unboxed, where I highlight some of the better bottles that have crossed my doorstep recently.

This week was all about the bubbles.

Let's start with some smashing good stuff from jolly old England. Yes, folks, you've probably heard the buzz, but English Fizz is good stuff, and these bottles from Ridgeview are a perfect example. Each has got its own charms, but the rosé was what really captivated me. I highly recommend trying these out. Unfortunately they're not that much cheaper than good Champagne, but they are far more than novelties.

As long as we're in Europe, let's talk about sparkling Riesling. Not much of it makes its way over the Atlantic, but it can be quite tasty when made well. This Fitz bottling is a decent representation of the form, but at \$15 a pop, who's complaining if it ain't so complex?

Perhaps as good transition as there is from Europe to California, a bottle of Buena Vista Champagne landed in the samples pile this week. Made in Champagne but labeled and sold by the Buena Vista Winery in Carneros, this wine is yet another product from the empire of the indefatigable Jean-Charles Boisset.

And we've got some domestic bubbles as well, from some of the usual suspects. Schramsberg is refined as ever, and J vineyards a solid contender. Lots to love from each.

Enjoy!



NV Buena Vista Winery "La Victoire," Champagne, France

Light gold with medium bubbles in the glass, this wine smells of buttered popcorn, wet stones, and white flowers. In the mouth, flavors of black sesame lemon pith and lemon juice mix with a moderately fine mousse. There's a slightly bitter note in the finish, with a touch of oak. 12% alcohol. Score: around **8.5**. Cost: \$49 [click to buy](#).