

The Gazette

🍷 Wine Guy: Bubbles for a sparkling new year and to celebrate throughout the year

By: Rich Mauro Special to The Gazette - December 27, 2017 -

Sparkling wine is appropriate for any occasion any time, but the holidays are its prime time.

Whether for a celebration or to drink with your meal, these fine bubbles from France, Italy and California are just the ticket. All wines here are nonvintage unless otherwise noted.

Champagne sets the standard, and Nonvintage Brut is notable as it represents the signature style of a Champagne house and tends to be the

most affordable. Look for these fine examples. Unless otherwise noted, all are blends of pinot noir and chardonnay with dollops of pinot meunier.

While Champagne is the benchmark, good sparklers come from elsewhere in France, usually labeled Crémant. Try Pierre Sparr Crémant d' Alsace - lively, flavorful Rosé (\$25) and refreshing, citrusy Brut Reserve (\$23). Also, Côté Mas Crémant De Limoux - fresh, fruity Brut (\$16) and soft, citrusy Rosé (\$16). **Haute Couture "French Bubbles Blanc"** (\$30) and Le Grand Courtâge "Limited Edition" Blanc de Blancs (\$18) source grapes from various regions.