

Eight Ways Wine Will Change in 2016

December 30, 2015 Elin McCoy

The impact of climate change and new technologies (like the ability to check wine prices on smartphones) are on my vinous radar for 2016. Sparkling wine, especially ubiquitous prosecco, is still going strong, but "premiumization" is coming. Ditto for rosé.

The future for wine looks bright, though craft beer and craft cider are siphoning off plenty of attention. Still, more people than ever (in the U.S. and UK especially) are drinking more expensive bottles—although you can get by quite splendidly under \$50, too. The fact that "wine red" is the new fashion color for shoes can't hurt either.

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Here's what else I see in my crystal (glass) for the coming year.

The "Celebrity Wine" Category Will Expand

Increasingly, wines carry labels with the names of TV series (*Downton Abbey*), baseball teams, NFL stars, actors like Diane Keaton, books and movies (*Fifty Shades of Grey*).

Now that public relations firms view reds and whites as a way to extend the brand of just about everything, including restaurants, I'm convinced there will be many, *many* more in 2016. (Though I'm not sure the odd match of a Finger Lakes riesling adds anything to the image of the New York Yankees.)

The latest to join the celeb wine club is Grammy-winning musician John Legend, who teamed up with Jean-Charles Boisset, owner of Napa's Raymond winery, to create "a unique series of rich, soulful and complex notes inspired by true love." Translation: an opulent cabernet (\$85) and seductive chardonnay (\$45) under the LVE Collection label.

No word on whether they'll sing in the glass.

https://www.instagram.com/p/_St_yDsIn6/?taken-by=raymondvineyard

Elin McCoy is the wine critic for Bloomberg Pursuits. Follow her on Twitter and at elinmccoy.com.

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