

MR PORTER

THE REPORT

THE WORLD'S TOP WINES MADE BY A-LISTERS

MR PORTER reviews the celebrity vintages that are actually worth drinking



Words by Mr Simon Mills

Hip-hop moguls may have cornered the market in premium vodka endorsements, and branded fragrances are now the almost-exclusive domain of teen pop stars, but investing in a Tuscan or Californian vineyard – producing peachy, buttery chardonnays and laying down cellars of robust, earthy reds – has become the marque of the more urbane celebrity.

Vinous speculation is not just a question of slapping one's headlining monicker on a green bottle. Making good wine requires large commitments of time and thoughtfulness. It is also requires patience, and in the closed, flighty world of wine, a certain decorum. On the plonk shelves of the celebrity wine shop you can find the likes of Pinot Pride by Mr Tituss Burgess (yes, the flamboyant, rouge-glugging Titus Andromedon from the Netflix comedy *The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* now has his own wine brand), but they don't make the cut here. Oh no.

Our guide to celebrity wine focuses only on the finest, most credible, critic-pleasing vintners, who prefer a discreet style of patronage that lets the taste and tannins do the talking, and whose ambitions are to see their wines in The French Laundry, rather than their own face on the bottle. Here, we assemble eight fine wines that also happen to be owned by celebrities – stock up now in readiness for the forthcoming end of Dry January.



Mr John Legend

Vineyard: Jean-Charles Boisset's Raymond Vineyards, California, US

Best wine: LVE Cabernet Sauvignon 2014



A decent glass of burgundy and the silky tones of Mr John Legend on the Sonos is a highly seductive combination, so the 2015 launch of the Grammy award-winning singer's LVE (the Legend Vineyard Exclusive) collaboration with Mr Jean-Charles Boisset's Napa Valley Raymond Vineyards seemed like an ideal pairing. And true to form, it was a slow-jam smash hit. *Wine Enthusiast* magazine gave it a 91/100 rating and declared the LVE 2014 "a wine of great presence". Just like its proprietor, then, based on his recent star turn in *La La Land*.