

EASY DRINKING STYLE SPARKLING – for PARTIES

New arrival Prosecco, Fiol is eye catching – black fence-posts on a white background, and apparently the name is an ancient word for ‘being part of a group of friends’. Nice. But Fiol is more than cool. Expect super refreshment with a delicate tease of flavor – the hallmark of good Prosecco. The perfect start to your evening, or event. Or household chores.

FIOL Prosecco, Veneto, Italy 394577 \$15.60

My recent post, Villa Sandi is probably the best current buy in Prosecco. Has my favourite attributes in a drink – fun ’n affordable.

VILLA SANDI Prosecco, Veneto, Italy 394387 \$13.95

South America is one of the great new sources of bloody-good bubbly. The newly arrived Cono Sur Sparkling Pink is a fab drink from one of my favourite winery’s. Buy a stash before someone at the winery discovers they made a pricing error!

CONO SUR Sparkling Rose, Chile 365205 \$13.90

Not to be outdone by their neighbours, Argentina has decided it can also make good bubbly at give-away prices. Santa Julia is from the terribly talented Zuccardi family of Fuzion fame.

SANTA JULIA Sparkling Brut, Argentina (organic) 314237 \$14.85

From the West Coast, Michelle offers softish, fruity, sparkling that’s a must-try for fans of Prosecco. Really easy drinking/crowd-pleasing for parties and family gatherings.

DOM STE. MICHELLE ‘Michelle’ Brut Sparkling, Washington State 363341 \$16.95

DRY TRADITIONAL SPARKLERS FROM SPAIN

Very Dry, Traditional-Method Sparkling Wine – for APERITIF

Spanish Cavas offer the same tangy dry feeling of elegance found in Champagne – but at a fraction of the price. Try the newly arrived Cava Hill and you’ll see what I mean. Wonderful drink for getting the palate excited. And a sensational value.

CAVAS HILL Brut, Spain 370866 \$13.20

And don’t forget these great values, and long-time-leaders in the Cava section. Codorniu struts with an elegance that one would never expect in a wine at this price.

CODORNIU Classico Brut, Cava, Spain 215814 \$13.90

SEGURA VIUDAS Reserva Brut, Cava, Spain 216960 \$14.25

AT VINTAGES

Codorniu Pink Bubbly has become a Holiday staple at Vintages. And why not – high quality, good value, and a smart-looking bottle too. Seriously dry, very aperitif and perfect with pastry nibbles. As is the white Raventos, which is very Champagneish.

CODORNIU Rose ‘Seleccion Raventos’ Brut, Cava, Spain 370080 Vintages \$15.95

CODORNIU ‘Seleccion Raventos’ Brut, Cava, Spain 521773 Vintages \$13.95

LOCAL PICKS

And now for a few locals available at LCBOs. ‘Spark’ is a clever labeling idea and this Sparkling Riesling from Tawse is perfect for aperitif, or to partner oysters, or other seafood apps. Henry’s Provence-pink Rose is very Champagneish. A classy good-looker. Worth breaking the \$20 barrier. Entourage from J-T is a relative bargain, considering the quality. And, if you must spend Champagne money for self or gift giving, please consider something from left field, Benjamin Bridge Sparkling from Nova Scotia. Maybe a tad lighter than the big brands but still an amazing achievement. Or maybe not – Northern Michigan Sparkling has been surprising experts for over a decade. Move over Champagne.

TAWSE 12 ‘Spark’ Riesling, VQA Twenty Mile Bench 370361 Vintages \$19.95

HENRY OF PELHAM ‘Cuvee Catharine’ Rose, Brut, VQA Niagara 217505 \$29.95

JACKSON-TRIGGS ‘Entourage’ Brut, VQA Niagara 234161 Vintages \$22.95 (avail Dec 6)

BENJAMIN BRIDGE 09 Reserve, Brut, Nova Scotia 381533 Vintages \$44.95 (avail Dec 6)

P. S.

Burgundy grows the same grapes as Champagne and is located just down the highway. Bouillot bubbly got me excited with its feeling of luxury. And low price. A lovely ‘quiet moments’ drink.

LOUIS BOUILLOT 09 Cremant de Bourgogne, Brut, France 178137 Vintages \$19.95

Ferrari makes Italian bubbly by the Champagne (oops, I mean Traditional) method. Bold, characterful stuff that’s a lot better value than the car. At least in my opinion. **FERRARI Brut, Trento, Italy** 352153 Vintages \$25.95