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How to Find the Best Champagne for You

The name “Champagne” is no guarantee of quality. Here are 10 excellent big houses, 11 small grower-producers and a glossary.

The bigger producers of Champagne can make excellent wines, even at the entry level. Smaller grower-producers offer a different, often more distinctive expression of Champagne. Here are 10 big brands and 11 small growers well worth seeking out, and a glossary to help you navigate the selections.

These Champagnes have names you might recognize

Bollinger

Renowned for wines that combine power and finesse. The nonvintage Special Cuvée (\$80) is superb, as are the vintage Grand Année (\$200) and R.D. (\$350).

Vintus, Pleasantville, N.Y.