

Holiday Gift Guide 2018: The Best Non-Vintage Champagnes



It's always Champagne season, but that particularly rings true in the final months of the year! There's nothing more festive than popping a bottle of bubbly or gifting one to a happy hostess. While it's a given that most wines will automatically be bottled with a vintage date, Champagne is far more likely to be a non-vintage wine; over 92% of all Champagne shipped to the U.S. in 2017 was non-vintage. Based on one vintage with a proportion of reserve wines blended in, non-vintage, or more accurately, multi-vintage Champagne typically offers a taste of the house or producer at a price that won't blow holiday budgets.

These ten non-vintage Champagnes will keep the festivities rolling until after the clock strikes midnight on the first day of the new year. When in doubt, there's never a bad time to gift bubbles.

Ayala 'Brut Majeur' Champagne NV (\$50)

After remaining under the radar for a half-century, Ayala was purchased by Bollinger in 2005, sparking new energy. This comes through in the Brut Majeur, a blend of 40% each Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, with some Pinot Meunier. It is Chablis like, with scents of seashells and salted almonds, the palate lively and friendly with a persistent finish driven by acidity.