

HOT LIST: 78 GREAT THINGS TO DO THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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32 HOTTEST CELEBRITY LOOKS

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AND MORE

THE STYLE GUIDE

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JESSICA ALBA

HOW THIS GLAMOROUS YOUNG ACTRESS **BALANCES** FAMILY, CAREER AND **BUSINESS** TOO

PLUS

DESSERTS ITALIAN STYLE

SEVEN SPARKLING WINES TO HELP YOU POP THE CORK

PLAY & STAY TWELVE GREAT PLACES TO SPEND THE HOLIDAYS



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—| The Wine List |—

POP GOES THE SEASON

Put some fizz in your holiday celebrations with a long pour of the bubbly.

I drink Champagne when I am happy and when I am sad. Sometimes I drink it alone. In company I consider it compulsory. I sip a little if I'm hungry. Otherwise I don't touch it—unless I'm thirsty of course." Lily Bollinger
 "I drink Champagne on only two occasions, when I'm in love and when I'm not." Coco Chanel

"Champagne is the essential equipment for seduction." Giacomo Casanova

These are just a few of the many quotes phrased throughout history in honor of the beauty and charm of the world's best-known sparkling

wine—Champagne. The story of Champagne started in the fifth century. The original grapes were planted by the Gauls around 57 B.C., but the idea of Champagne as a celebratory wine came much later.

In the fifth century, Frankish warlord Clovis (ruler of Champagne) was attacked by another Germanic tribe. The invasion was miraculously defeated by Clovis' army. After the defeat, Clovis held a lavish banquet using the still red wine from Champagne as the celebratory drink. Champagne's fame as a celebratory drink was established, even though the bubbly version we know today was still centuries away.

It was Dom Perignon (a Catholic monk) in 1668 who finally

BY PATRICK BARTLETT

captured the bubbles now identified as the “sparkling” wine style enjoyed today. It was a troublesome and recurring accident that he finally decided to work with. In Champagne, France, with its cool climate, the wine fermentation periods would often stop short of completion, the remaining yeast would shut down, but the wine was bottled anyway. Then in the spring when the temperatures warmed up, the yeasts would wake up and start fermenting again. The gas from the fermentation is what caused the bubbles to form in the bottles. Once Dom Perignon realized why this was happening, he started working with the bubbles rather than fighting to stop them from forming in the first place.

Today sparkling wines are produced and enjoyed all over the world. Champagne can only be called by this name if it's from the region of Champagne in France. In all other cases it's considered sparkling wine. Even in other parts of France it's referred to as cremant, not Champagne. In Italy it is called prosecco or asti; in Germany, sekt; in Spain, cava, and everywhere else, sparkling wine.

Temecula has a robust history with its sparkling wine production and worth discovering. These are a few of the Temecula wineries to consider:

Thornton Winery One of the first wineries you see when entering the Temecula wine country. Thornton has produced a variety of sparkling wines since the beginning of the winery in 1988. The tasting room has flights of sparkling wine. thorntonwine.com

South Coast Winery Resort and Spa Winemaker Jon McPherson specialized in sparkling wine before coming to South Coast where he continues to make several different sparkling wine options. South

Coast also has plans to open another winery that will have a strong focus on sparkling wines. wineresort.com

Wiens Family Cellars This family-run winery offers a sparkling wine that has been infused with a fruit essence. Most people who taste these bubbly wines always recommend them to others. wienscellars.com

Lorenzi Estate Wines Small production, handcrafted, and award winning. Lorenzi offers a classic méthode champenoise style sparkling wine. Lorenzi is working to complete its wine country tasting room, but its wines can be found at lorenzistatewines.com and at upscale area restaurants while construction takes place.

Wilson Creek Winery This winery is known for its sparkling wine, Almond Champagne. This is the wine that helped garner broader attention for Temecula when the fledgling wine region was working to establish itself as a California wine destination. wilsoncreekwinery.com

And in the Cucamonga Valley...

Galleano Winery Since 1933 Galleano has been making wine in the Cucamonga Valley. This historic winery also offers sparkling wine choices. One is an almond sparkling wine and another a raspberry sparkling wine. Galleano also offers a classic brut sparkling wine for the purists. galleanowinery.com

Joseph Filippi Winery and Vineyards In operation in the Cucamonga Valley since 1922, Joseph Filippi also offers three sparkling wine options: almond, raspberry, and brut. josephfilippiwinery.com

The next time you're out for a day or weekend of wine tasting in Temecula or the Cucamonga Valley, don't forget to discover all the sparkling wine options that await.

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