



Stay Safe, Sip Well: Sparkling Wines for Trying Times



2021 has finally arrived, and it's a new year like no other. Let's face it; the world remains in turmoil, and people are suffering. I'm approaching this new chapter with cautious optimism, and I look forward to the day that we can hug, travel, and spend time together again. These long months of social distancing have not been easy, but time at home has also been a blessing. Time to read, relax, and just be still. Time to really think about my life and the people in it. Long phone chats and Zoom happy hours have strengthened my relationships with the most important people in my life. There's no event to rush off to, no plane to catch. There's time now.

Time at home has also changed my relationship with wine. As a wine writer, most of my professional tasting experiences revolved around a rollercoaster of wine events. It had become entirely normal to attend several tastings a week, sometimes 3-4 events a day. It was exhilarating and exhausting. Now that I taste wine at home, I don't feel rushed. I do miss the camaraderie, but drinking at my own pace has improved my tasting skills. The best wines often need time to evolve in the glass, and being able to take that journey of taste from the comfort of my sofa, has reminded me why I love wine so much.

More than anything, I've learned not to wait for a special occasion to open a beautiful bottle of wine. Who knows what tomorrow will bring? And the right wine can add a bit of magic to a long day at home. I know that we just wrapped up the holiday season, and many bottles of bubbly were popped on New Year's Eve. But why wait? I'm a big fan of sparkling wine and pop open a bottle at least twice a week. I may be wearing black yoga pants instead of a little black dress, but bubbly adds a touch of glamour to takeout and Netflix.

I've also had the pleasure of sipping some fantastic Champagnes over the past few months. If you're looking to treat yourself, **I highly recommend sips from Champagne Ayala, Champagne Leclerc Briant, and Champagne Lanson. Stay safe and drink well!**



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winedinewanda 🍷 Bye Bye Zoom, Bonjour Champagne! Champagne Ayala Brut Majeur NV (\$55) is the elegant golden light at the end of a tunnel of Zoom meetings and webinars. A blend of 40% Chardonnay, 40% Pinot Noir, and 20% Pinot Meunier, Brut Majeur is Champagne Ayala's flagship non-vintage bubbly. Full and rich with bright flavors of lemon zest, ginger, honey, crunchy green apple, and baked pears with a warm thread of biscuity brioche, it is a lovely way to unwind. Crisp, refreshing, and very ooh la la! Not familiar with Champagne Ayala? Long known as the "sleeping beauty of Champagne," Ayala was one of the 18 founding members of the "Grandes



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winedinewanda 🍷 And the celebration continues! Raising a glass to a rosy future with Champagne Ayala Brut Rosé Majeur NV (\$72). A blend of Chardonnay (51%), Pinot Noir (40%) and Pinot Meunier (9%), this beauty was aged on the lees for 2.5 years and rested in the cellar for at least 3 months after disgorgement. Crisp and juicy with bright red fruit flavors, a hint of blood orange and a kiss of biscuit.

@champagne_ayala #wine #vino #vin #champagne #bubbly #sparklingwine #instawine #frenchwine #oohlala #rosé #winetasting #celebrate #drinks #delicious #cheers #winewithwanda #democracywins

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winedinewanda 🍷 It's kind of a melancholy Monday, so I opted for a glass of bubbly instead of my usual afternoon cup of tea. Champagne Ayala Le Blanc de Blancs 2013 (\$110) has succeeded in adding a bit of ooh la la to a blah day. Look at that glimmering gold hue – it's beckoning "sip me, s'il vous plait!" 100% Chardonnay from 3 Grand and 2 Premier Cru villages on the Côte des Blancs, it is crisp, chalky, creamy, fruity, nutty; an elegant tapestry of texture and flavor.

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