

SPECIAL 2018

WORLD OF
CHAMPAGNE



CHAMPAGNER-MACHER PERSÖNLICH
DIE KUNST DER CHAMPAGNER-MARIAGE
200 SPITZENCUVÉES IM TEST

Vinum



Charles Fourny

VEUVE FOURNY

PRECISION AND INSPIRATION

with Charles and Emmanuel Fourny

Once upon a time there was an industrious widow with two sons, Charles and Emmanuel: and because they went on to produce outstanding fine wines, Veuve Fourny is now one of the region's top estates.



Emmanuel Fourny

Charles does not look happy – there is a box in the way which has no business being there. Take note: when it comes to wine and precision, his tolerance threshold drops and the image of a nice young man which he normally exudes falls away. ‘Yes’, he admits with a smile, ‘you aren’t the first person to say that. Our mother is from Belgium. She instilled diligence in us.’ ‘And’, his brother Emmanuel continues with unusual seriousness, ‘we owe it to our father’s memory to give the best every day, and seek absolute perfection’. Charles: ‘Anyone can make wine – grapes ferment all on their own. However, bottling a wine made with precision and inspiration is another matter.’

The Fourny brothers’ choice not to take the easy road is by no means an obvious one, as when they joined the business after their father’s death in order to help their mother, few people had heard of the brand. Veuve Fourny

was just one of many small businesses offering good wines, in danger of going under in a sea of other good bottles. Charles and Emmanuel were not happy with this state of affairs. Rather than using base wines from all over Champagne, they deliberately limited themselves to the best Premier and Grand Cru locations in Vertus and Côte des Blancs. The fact that Vertus (an area that produces particularly interesting Chardonnay and also Pinot Noir) has now risen from being an unsung cru to a top location – which connoisseurs have long rated on a par with the Grands Crus – is due not least to these two industrious brothers. They are now grand masters of more than just exceptional rosés: their wide range of single-vineyard wines and blends are some of the best Champagne has to offer, and if it takes the odd angry look, that seems an entirely reasonable trade-off.

A

Champagne Mailly

Magnum 1997

19 points | 2018 to 2020

1997 was a good vintage but not really a great one – but this stunning magnum cuvee is the exception. Mature yet vibrant, full-bodied but still particularly spirited, immensely fruity, imposing, with a wonderfully lingering juicy finish of prune and cake notes.



Champagne Piper Heidsieck

Magnum Rare 1998

19 points | 2018 to 2019

The maturation process in a magnum provides particular roundness, serenity and refinement. This holds true for this gloriously decadent wine with tempting mature notes of cocoa, truffle, hazelnut, butter pastry and candied fruit, and its creamy elegant style.



Champagne Pol Roger

Sir Winston Churchill 2006

19 points | 2018 to 2020

Huge aromatic complexity with exotic fruit notes, as well as stone fruit, spice and cardamom aromas, particularly stylish and elegant on the palate, creamy, lascivious yet astonishingly consistent and endlessly lingering, one of the hits of the vintage. Absolutely delicious.



Champagne René Geoffroy

Brut Nature – Les Houtrants Complantés

19 points | 2018

Petit Meslier, Meslier and Alabane supplement Pinot and Chardonnay in this wine. The whole is complex yet harmonious, rounded and ripe, very fruity with mirabelle plum, persimmon, red apple and blackberry notes. A road map for the champagnes of the future. Just 1000 bottles produced.



Champagne Veuve Fourny et Fils

Cuvée du Clos Notre Dame

19 points | 2019 to 2022

Stunningly complex with peach, grapefruit, gooseberry and pastry spice aromas, very dense, hugely spirited and long on the palate with a lingering bitter almond finish, a magnificent wine perfect with a lobster salad.



The trump card of diversity

The range of champagnes delighting enthusiasts is becoming increasingly colourful and broad. The following pages set out the most beautiful, exciting, original cuvees currently available. We have listed them alphabetically by producer and in order of score.

Champagne Agrapart & Fils

Avizoise - Robarts – Gros Yeux – Extra Brut

17 points | 2018 to 2019

This zero dosage wine, matured in oak and made from Grand Cru Avize old vines, is compelling even in this complicated vintage (elegant with perfectly integrated oak, straightforward and very authentic) – we are eagerly awaiting its development!



Champagne AR Lenoble

Gentilhomme 2009

18.5 points | 2018 to 2020

Discreet, flawless rancio spice, mint, eucalyptus, cloves and cocoa aromas, again utterly top quality on the palate, full but not clumsy, spicy but not plump, immensely long with a sophisticated bitter note, a wine for connoisseurs or even fans of the unusual.



Champagne Tarlant**BAM!**

17.5 points | 2018 to 2021

Dazzlingly fresh and light, driven by acidity yet very sophisticated, flawless, exceptionally made, with exotic fruit, pineapple and lime aromas; the pleasure of being able to taste three old varieties in this blend is alone worth the price.

**Champagne Thiénot****La Vigne aux Gamins 2005**

17.5 points | 2017 to 2018

Astonishingly youthful for the vintage with a reticent curry bouquet, elegant and lascivious structure, slender with good length and an interesting, complex finish. Best as a dignified aperitif or with light, creative dishes.

**Champagne Thiénot****Cuvée Garance 2008**

17 points | 2018 to 2022

The idiosyncratic bouquet of a developing wine which is undergoing radical change, offering porcini mushroom and humus notes, powerful structure, very vinous, good length, still has potential. Should be laid down for a little while longer.

**Champagne Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin****Millésime 2008**

17.5 points | 2018 to 2022

The most closed but also the most promising vintage wine we have ever tasted from this producer: particularly vinous, transparent yet intense, juicy, with reserved dosage and a wonderful finish reminiscent of pome-lo and grapefruit. Just reaching the beginning of its drinking window.

**Champagne Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin****Extra Brut, Extra Old**

17 points | 2018 to 2020

Producers who choose to go mostly or entirely without dosage do well to leave their champagnes maturing on the lees for longer: the particularly interesting results which this creates are also illustrated by this exceptionally sleek, crystal clear cuvee with a lingering grapefruit finish.

**Champagne Veuve Fourny et Fils****Rosé "les Rougesmonts"**

18 points | 2018 to 2022

The complex bouquet of a young Burgundy with spice and red berry notes, genuinely like a red wine on the palate, lively and intense, particularly spirited, still very youthful, exceptionally characterful, one of Champagne's genuinely great wines.

**Champagne Veuve Fourny et Fils****Monts de Vertus 2011**

17.5 points | 2018 to 2019

A tempting exotic fruit bouquet, immensely juicy on the palate, crisp and fresh, particularly long with an elegant, barely perceptible bitter note, a wonderful wine best enjoyed with creative cuisine.

**Champagne Veuve Fourny et Fils****Rosé Vinothèque 2011**

17.5 points | 2018 to 2020

Superb bouquet of pastry and red berries, lean on the palate, perfectly ripe, elegant yet very spirited and lingering, an impressive rosé, very sophisticated.



Champagne Veuve Fourny et Fils**Brut Nature Blanc de Blancs**

17 points | 2018 to 2019

Everything that the Fourny brothers touch turns to gold, as once again demonstrated by this zero dosage wine: reticent starfruit and green apple notes, crystal clear structure, slender, sinewy, spirited, uncomplicatedly good.

**Champagne Veuve Fourny et Fils****Rosé Premier Cru**

17 points | 2018 to 2019

Tempting red cherry bouquet, very Burgundian in its expression, this rosé is also particularly sophisticated and perhaps a little more accessible, fruity with dosage that is perceptible but does not disrupt, even if we do prefer the Extra Brut.

**Champagne Veuve Fourny et Fils****R Extra Brut L'Opulence**

16.5 points | 2018 to 2019

Bears its name with brio: despite its low dosage, this wine is particularly fruity, full-bodied, juicy and impressively long, with a crisp red and green apple finish. Enjoy with flavourful dishes.

**Champagne Vollereaux****Célébration**

16.5 points | 2018

One of the many pleasant surprises from this tasting, which did not exactly have a shortage of noteworthy wines: particularly sophisticated, elegant, airy, joyous, a truly celebratory wine devoted to the lightness of being. A bargain.

**Champagne Vollereaux****Cuvée Marguerite 2008**

16.5 points | 2017 to 2018

Intense rancio notes of bread crust, cocoa and pepper, a well-balanced and refined structure, medium length, easily good value for money: enjoy now with light exotic dishes.

**Champagne Waris Larmandier****Ses Arts**

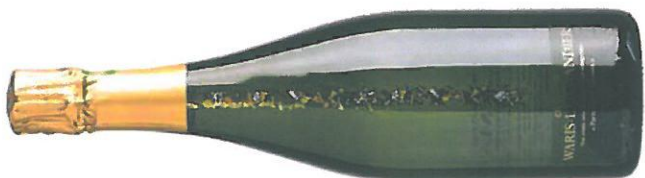
16.5 points | 2018 to 2019

Interesting herb and blossom bouquet, mineral, airy, slender and fresh, a juicy finish with lime notes. Fun. For aperitifs and tête-à-têtes.

**Champagne Waris Larmandier****Particules Crayeuses**

16 points | 2018 to 2019

A refreshing, joyous, light sparkling wine with a distinct expression of terroir, rather too high a dosage for our palate, but pleasant. For all occasions. Well priced.



P, T, V

Champagne Piper Heidsieck

Rosé Sauvage

16 points | 2018

The raspberry bouquet is already virtually hollering, but on the palate it is impetuous and juicy with perceptible yet appropriate dosage, the perfect beginner's rosé for a bar.



Champagne Piper Heidsieck

Essentiel – Cuvée Réserve

16 points | 2018

Temporarily fruity with fresh herb notes, a transparent structure, perfect balance and good length, very elegant and harmonious, best enjoyed as an aperitif with nibbles. Exceptionally made.



Champagne Pol Roger

Réserve

17 points | 2018

Bruts come as much into play as least as much as top champagnes when we assess a house's quality. Pol Roger's BSA is exquisite: elegant, serene, complex, creamy, stylish. For stylish infatuation.



Champagne Taittinger

Brut Réserve

16 points | 2018

We like the fruity, tempting bouquet, transcendent elegance and particular airiness of this exceptionally made, stylish Brut. Pleasant.



Champagne Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin

Brut

16 points | 2018

Despite the large quantities in which it is made, this remains a safe bet if you are interested in a Brut: fruity with red apple notes, hugely clean, juicy on the palate, appealing and dense with the depth it needs, perfect with nibbles or a light meal, and could even accompany cheese.



Champagne Veuve Fourny et Fils

Blanc de Blancs Brut

17 points | 2018 to 2020

A tempting bouquet of exotic fruit and blossom with starfruit notes, crystal clear on the palate, slender and sinewy, very lingering, light, elegant, a wonderful wine best enjoyed with fish and seafood.

