

SPECIAL 2020

# WORLD OF CHAMPAGNE

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TIMELESS ENJOYMENT WITH CHAMPAGNE  
15 TOP PRODUCERS OVER TIME  
160 TOP CUVÉES NEW AT THE MARKET

*Vinum*



General director Benjamin Fourmon, key figure.



# JOSEPH PERRIER

## KEY MOMENT

*with Benjamin Fourmon*

Joseph Perrier, a producer of particularly stylish, elegant champagnes, is one of the oldest yet also the most discreet houses in the region. The brand's young CEO promises that all this is about to change.

They key I am holding in my hand, down here in our beautiful, historic cellars, was given to me by my father when he retired. I was just 33. He opened the doors to our wine cellars in the heart of Chalons-en-Champagne. We are the only big brand in this town. My great-great-grandfather, winemaker Paul Pithois, passed it on to his son, and on down it went. The key is a symbol of family tradition and timeless continuity. Paul Pithois was able to acquire Joseph Perrier from its founding family in 1888. He was the first generation of Pithois-Fourmons to run Joseph Perrier, and I represent the fifth generation.

The Perrier family comes from Côte des Blancs. François-Alexandre Perrier founded Perrier fils & Compagnie in 1800. His son Joseph gave the brand its current name in 1825. Joseph Perrier has remained on the same premises throughout. We are virtually part of the furniture. Joseph Perrier was the mayor of Chalons, and if you ask any of the locals today about features of the town, then Joseph Perrier's historic cellars will come up almost automatically. There are no other examples of Gallo-Roman

tunnels with a ground-level entrance. Our three kilometres of cellars, where we still work today (and which are only occasionally open to visitors), are unique, beautiful and historic. They sit beneath a chalk hill towering behind the buildings, and were extended from 1800 onwards. Light wells run up to the surface of a 2.5-hectare park that we tend with great care. The ancient trees, or rather their roots, are what keep the moisture perfectly regulated. We have 22 hectares of our own vines and produce less than a million bottles, making us one of the region's smaller producers. This is not going to change. 'Small but perfectly formed' is my motto. Joseph Perrier may not be the most famous champagne house, but it can compete with the best in terms of quality. This is something I intend to make more widely known. Producing a top champagne first and foremost requires top-quality grapes. We have contracts with winegrowers in the best locations, some of which go back generations. Then, it takes an experienced cellar master and lots and lots of time to mature. Our ideal cellars are a clear advantage.

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**Champagne Bollinger**  
**La Grande Année Brut 2008**  
**19.5 points | 2020 to 2024**

Tempting citrus fruity and pastry spice nose, rich and dense texture, a wonderful combination of elegance and spirit, immensely lingering with delicately bitter grapefruit notes; utterly sophisticated and up there among this house's best vintages.



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**Champagne Joseph Perrier**  
**Joséphine Brut 2008**  
**19 points | 2020 to 2023**

A reticent, complex, mineral nose with citrus fruit, herb and spice aromas, exceptionally spirited and fresh with a wonderful structure and never-ending finish of grapefruit notes with mineral touches.



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**Champagne Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin**  
**La Grande Dame Brut 2008**  
**19 points | 2021 to 2023**

Reticent bottle age with a touch of eucalyptus, red apple and herb, immensely full in the attack with a dense, muscular structure, juicy, crisp and very, very lingering; still in its infancy, the best 'Dame' we have ever tasted.



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**Champagne Taittinger**  
**Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs Brut 2007**  
**19 points | 2020 to 2021**

Bewitching bottle age of butter, hazelnut, pastry, cocoa and citrus fruit aromas, delicate and refined structure, and a hugely lingering spicy finish of dried apricot notes; a wonderful, aloof, immensely stylish wine for a tête-à-tête.



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**Champagne Pol Roger**  
**Sir Winston Churchill Brut 2008**  
**18.5 points | 2022 to 2025**

Initially almost distinguished reticence, then an elegant citrus fruit and herb nose with a touch of pineapple; a full, immensely dense, spirited structure, juicy, vinous, very lingering with delicately bitter grapefruit notes. Can and should be left to mature further.



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**Champagne de Sousa**  
**Caudalies Extra Brut 2008**  
**18 points | 2022 to 2025**

After swirling, an interesting mix of fruity and spicy components – a champagne at a transitional stage, which is reflected on the nose; full in the attack, dense structure, particularly spirited and impressively lingering. A great wine in its infancy.



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**Champagne Gosset**  
**Célébris Vintage Extra Brut 2007**  
**18 points | 2020 to 2021**

Refined bottle age of pastry and exotic fruit aromas, crystal clear in the attack, refined structure, also hugely spirited, uncompromisingly transparent and particularly lingering; now at its peak. Enjoy with refined, creative cuisine.



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**Champagne Jacquesson**  
**Avize Champ Caïn Extra Brut 2008**  
**18 points | 2020 to 2022**

Powerful ripe apple nose followed by vanilla cream aromas and a touch of honey and hazelnut (the nose of a Meursault); full in the attack with a dense, weighty structure, vinous, intense, well structured, full and spirited, a characterful wine for connoisseurs.





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**Champagne Thiénot****Vintage Brut 2009****16.5 points | 2020 to 2022**

Reticent, pleasant bottle age, straightforward in the attack with a compact yet full structure, juicy, spirited and nicely lingering, very reliable and good value for money. A table wine that is easy to pair.



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**Champagne J. Charpentier****Millésime Brut 2009****16 points | 2020 to 2021**

A lovely, fruity nose of raspberry and red apple aromas, creamy, appealing, exceptionally made, well balanced, refreshing, the type of champagne that always pleases, particularly when the temperature starts rising outside.



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## 2010 vintage hitting the market

*A complicated year in Champagne that in many cases resulted in corpulent, very ripe wines that died quickly in the glass and frequently left us a little disappointed. Here is a handful of good examples from this year, but they are best enjoyed in the next few months.*

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**Champagne Diebolt-Vallois****Fleur de Passion Brut 2010****18 points | 2020 to 2022**

Superb grapefruit and white flower nose, slender in the attack with a crystalline, airy yet dense and full structure, well structured, spirited and hugely refined; the exception that confirms the rule, one of the hits of the vintage. Suitable for laying down.



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**Champagne Joseph Perrier****Cumières La Côte à Bras Blanc de Noirs Brut Nature 2010****17.5 points | 2020 to 2022**

Its vintage bottle age, its prune aromas and its powerful, vinous, yet still very juicy structure make it perfect for the table, for example with a piece of very mature cheese or a free-range pork chop.



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**Champagne Drappier****Grande Sendrée Rosé 2010****17 points | 2020 to 2021**

Tempting red cherry and raspberry nose, full in the attack with a full, creamy texture that is almost viscous for a sparkling wine, and a lingering fruity finish; a skilful blend of variety, vintage and style that only Drappier can achieve.



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**Champagne Henriët Bazin****Eusèbe Brut 2010****16.5 points | 2020 to 2020**

Powerful ripe fruit, prune and pastry aromas with a hint of leather; full in the attack, very full-bodied again on the palate, also juicy and corpulent, more compact than lingering but nevertheless impressive, vinous, characterful.



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**Champagne Thiénot****Garance Blanc de Noirs Brut 2010****16.5 points | 2020 to 2021**

Rather dull and clumsy, becoming much more interesting after aeration with fruity cherry and red apple aromas, full in the attack, full-bodied structure, well-made and corpulent, powerful and lingering; vinous, characterful. Good with hearty dishes, red meat or hard cheese.



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**Champagne Joseph Perrier****Royale Brut Rosé****17 points | 2020 to 2023**

An astonishingly tempting redcurrant, cherry and starfruit nose, perfect structure, spirited, juicy and pleasantly lingering, crisp, refreshing, immensely fruity, with the notes from the nose reappearing in the finish. Superb, characterful.



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**Champagne Deutz****Rosé Brut****16.5 points | 2020 to 2020**

A lovely fruity nose, slender in the attack, filigree structure, well balanced, elegant and creamy, pleasingly lingering, a perfect rosé for any occasion, from an aperitif to snacks to light creative dishes.



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**Champagne Lallier****Grand Rosé Brut****16.5 points | 2020 to 2021**

A decidedly powerful red fruit and cherry nose, compact in the attack, dense and powerful structure, good length, with a finish dominated by the fruity notes from the nose; spirited and characterful, also good with hearty dishes.



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**Champagne Lanson****Rose Label Rosé Brut****16 points | 2020 to 2021**

Reticent fruity and appealing nose of ripe red berry aromas, in refreshing, juicy, crisp style on the palate, uncomplicated yet not superficial, a perfect table wine for barbecues or summer dishes.



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**Champagne Moët & Chandon****Rosé Impérial Brut****16 points | 2020 to 2021**

A tempting fruity nose of raspberry and cherry aromas with a refreshing touch of herb, very well balanced on the palate, airy, slender, fresh and beautifully lingering, tempting, excellently made, a safe bet.



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**Champagne Charles Mignon****Comte de Marne Rosé Brut****15.5 points | 2020 to 2020**

A lovely fruity nose with raspberry aromas, decidedly fruity again on the palate, even slightly candy-like, but with good, fresh development and a compact red cherry finish.



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**Champagne Mercier****Mercier Brut Rosé****15.5 points | 2020 to 2020**

Obliging but very clean nose of fresh strawberry aromas, straightforward in the attack with a slender but pleasantly fruity structure and a lovely berry finish; appealing, well made, good value for money, for a casual drink.



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**Champagne Forget Brimont****Grand Rosé Brut****15 points | 2020 to 2020**

A rather clumsy, even slightly reductive nose, fruity and spicy with leather touches, compact and full bodied on the palate, pleasantly lingering, robust and even slightly angular. Enjoy with flavourful dishes.



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**Champagne Piper Heidsieck****Essentiel Brut****16.5 points | 2020 to 2021**

A very clean, particularly fruity nose of gooseberry and rhubarb aromas, crystal clear in the attack, spirited development, and a lingering crisp and fruity finish; an excellently made fizz that would go perfectly with a meal.



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**Champagne Forget Brimont****Blanc de Blancs Brut****16 points | 2020 to 2021**

Particularly fruity aromas on the nose with fresh apple notes, juicy and crisp on the palate, appealing without being banal, lingering. Uncomplicated, well made, fun.



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**Champagne Forget Brimont****Brut****16 points | 2020 to 2020**

A pleasantly reserved and very fruity nose with ripe fruit and mirabelle plum aromas, fruity in the attack, refreshing development and a lingering finish, an appealing and fun wine. A perfect all-rounder.



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**Champagne Joseph Perrier****Royale Brut****16 points | 2020 to 2021**

Refreshing lime aroma with spicy and mineral touches, decidedly spirited and fresh on the palate, juicy and crisp yet also vinous, lingering, with perfect dosage (7g/l), excellent value for money.



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**Champagne Lallier****R015 Brut****16 points | 2020 to 2021**

A truly intense, mineral and fruity nose of fresh fruit notes, compact in the attack with dense, juicy development, lingering, characterful and a very good representation of the house style. Enjoy with sausages or cheese.



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**Champagne Lanson****Black Label Brut****16 points | 2020 to 2021**

Has the fruity, juicy, direct, refreshing style we love about this wine. An impeccably made all-rounder that is great as an aperitif or with a light meal. Worth its price.



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**Champagne Moët & Chandon****Impérial Brut****16 points | 2020 to 2021**

A tempting fruity and floral nose, decidedly fresh and elegant, well-balanced, appealing, perfectly made, a good all-rounder that works well as an aperitif or an accompaniment to light dishes.



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**Champagne Charles Mignon****Comte de Marne Brut****15.5 points | 2020 to 2021**

Initially rather reductive but improves in the glass, becoming fruity and spicy; compact in the attack, powerful structure, lingering with perceptible dosage. Reliable and well made.







Ulrike Treptow's recommended  
bargains for fans of elegant,  
refined champagnes:  
Amour de Deutz 2009  
Krug Rosé 167. Edition  
Delamotte 2012  
Comtes de Champagne 2007  
[www.millesima.de](http://www.millesima.de)  
Hotline: 0080026733289







Elodie Kohr loves top-quality champagnes:  
 Joseph Perrier Cuvée Royale  
 De Souza Triple A  
 Deutz Classic  
 Joseph Perrier Joséphine 2008  
[www.millesima.de](http://www.millesima.de)  
 Hotline: 0080026733289