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The perfect bottles of rosé to quench your summer thirst

Nothing says summertime like a nice glass of chilled rosé. Here, the bottles to have stocked in the fridge

By Victoria Moore, WINE CORRESPONDENT 24 June 2020 • 7:00am











The <u>heatwave</u> is <u>coming</u>, and it's going to be a blistering one. You are probably going to want to have a bottle or two of rosé in your fridge and I've been tasting the new releases to find the very best. From the Chanel-owned Domaine de l'Ile in Provence to a redcurrant-scented sparkling wine from Hampshire, here they are.

English sparkling



The tart redcurrant and just-ripe strawberry flavours of <u>Berry Bros & Rudd</u> English Sparkling Rosé by Hambledon NV England (Berry Bros & Rudd, £27.95) have summer picnics and drink-on-the-grass-before-a-barbecue written all over them. There's a delightful contrast here between the soft summer berry flavours and the underlying tension of a snappy acidity.

Fashion pack



In collaboration with Dolce & Gabbana, the Sicilian wine producer Donnafugata has produced a rosé with one of the most beautiful labels you will find on any wine. Inspired by the ornate decoration on the painted wheels of a traditional Sicilian cart, its tiled golds, pinks and blues are a pleasure to behold.

The wine inside the bottle is made with two local grapes – nerello mascalese and nocera – and tastes of pomegranate, watermelon and orange rind. Dolce & Gabbana Donnafugata Rosa 2019 Sicily is available through <u>donnafugata.it</u> at Euros 24,50 a bottle.

Toujours Provence



CREDIT: Brice Braastad - EPISODE II

Chanel added another vineyard to its portfolio last year when it bought Domaine de l'Ile, an estate on the enchanting island of Porquerolles just off Provence's Côte d'Azur. The wine is overseen by Nicolas Audebert who is also the winemaker for the fashion house's two Bordeaux vineyards, Château Rauzan-Ségla in Margaux and Château Canon in St Emilion.

Provence is of course renowned for its delicate yet persistent rosé wine and as you would expect the first vintage of Domaine de l'Ile Porquerolles 2019

Côtes de Provence since it came under Chanel ownership is immaculate. A pale rose-gold colour, it shimmers with a suggestion of wild strawberries and sandalwood. Available in the UK through <u>Fine + Rare</u> at £175 (plus duty and VAT) per case of 12.

Serious rosé

Tibouren is a rare red grape found in Provence that makes wines with a distinctive gentle smell of earth, dried herbs and violets. It's not unusual to find a small percentage of it in the blend of a Provence rosé but it's not often that you will find a wine made mostly from tibouren.

One famous (at least, famous in wine circles) example is Clos Cibonne Tradition Rosé 2018 Côtes de Provence Cru Classé, France which is 90% tibouren and 10% grenache. This supremely elegant and savoury wine has been one of my favourite rosés for years and the new vintage does not disappoint.

While some of the more frivolous rosés can begin to taste a bit vacuous when you start to eat, this is a rosé that continues to hold its own. Excellent, and available from redsquirrelwine.com at £28.

Pink Champagne

Pol Roger only release a rosé in vintage years and Champagne Pol Roger Rosé 2012 France (thefinestbubble.com, £84) is a breath-taker – powerful and prettily red-fruited but with a tremulous quality, a finesse that gives it a beautiful edge.

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