



THE
WORLD'S
MOST ADMIRED
CHAMPAGNE
BRANDS 2025

DRINKS
INTERNATIONAL

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CONTENTS

4 HOW WE DID IT

6 TOP 40 LISTING

53 THE HARVEST REPORT

62 THE LIST

For the 12th edition of The World's Most Admired Champagne Brands we've extended the list from 30-40. This speaks volumes about the increasing quality across the board in Champagne as a broader range of houses attract votes from our panel of independent experts.

The unflappable Louis Roederer has retained its title as The World's Most Admired Champagne Brand, making it six in a row. It's difficult to think of another brand with the same admiration from the drinks trade, although Krug and Bollinger look like prime candidates to challenge the throne in 2026.

Much like the success of Louis Roederer, the reputation of this ranking continues to shine under the guidance of our esteemed champagne guru Giles Fallowfield. His contacts within the region, combined with the longstanding reputation of *Drinks International*, make a fine vintage. But beyond his contacts lists, be sure to read the in-depth harvest report on page 53, which is one of the most authoritative on-the-ground reports in the business.

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DRINKS INTERNATIONAL Agile MEDIA

THE LIST

NO.	COMPANY	MOVERS
1	LOUIS ROEDERER	NON-MOVER
2	KRUG	NON-MOVER
3	BOLLINGER	NON-MOVER
4	BILLECART-SALMON	NON-MOVER
5	CHARLES HEIDSIECK	UP 2
6	POL ROGER	DOWN 1
7	RUINART	UP 1
8	DOM PERIGNON	DOWN 2
9	TAITTINGER	NON-MOVER
10	SALON	RE-ENTRY
11	GOSSET	UP 12
12	LAURENT-PERRIER	DOWN 1
13	PHILIPPONNAT	UP 2
14	RARE	UP 4
15	JACQUESSON	DOWN 3
16	VEUVE CLICQUOT	DOWN 2
17	PERRIER-JOUET	DOWN 7
18	DRAPPIER	DOWN 5
19	HENRI GIRAUD	RE-ENTRY
20	BRUNO PAILLARD	DOWN 4

NO.	COMPANY	MOVERS
21	DEUTZ	DOWN 1
22	HENRIOT	DOWN 2
23=	PALMER & CO	UP 6
23=	MOET & CHANDON	DOWN 6
23=	LANSON	UP 1
26	VEUVE-FOURNY	UP 2
27	ALFRED GRATIEN	NON-MOVER
28	PIPER-HEIDSIECK	DOWN 3
29=	GH MUMM	DOWN 7
29=	POMMERY	DOWN 3
31=	LALLIER	DOWN 1
31=	TELMONT	DOWN 10
33	ARMAND DE BRIGNAC	RE-ENTRY
34	THIÉNOT	NEW ENTRY
35	DUVAL-LEROY	RE-ENTRY
36	BARON DE ROTHSCHILD	NEW ENTRY
37	DE SAINT GALL	NEW ENTRY
38	LECLERC BRIANT	NEW ENTRY
39	LE MESNIL	RE-ENTRY
40	JOSEPH PERRIER	RE-ENTRY



37 DE SAINT GALL

DE-SAINT-GALL.COM

Union Champagne is one of two 'Rolls Royce' coops in Champagne's Côte des Blancs, located in central Avize, and walking round the winery you can see latest and best winemaking kit. It invested €12m in 2012 just for keeping reserve wines, explains head winemaker Cédric Jacopin (pictured), holding 15 different vintages separately going back to 2003 Le Mesnil, stored by grape variety and cru.

Union Champagne, which produces the De Saint Gall (DSG) range, is a union of 15 coops with more than 2,330 members across the appellation, who between them own 1,420ha of vineyard (enough to make 14 million bottles). Of this volume, 10% is used to produce DSG's 1.2 million bottles, 20-30% goes back to members to sell under their own labels and the remaining 60% is sold as vins clairs to the major houses.

The fine reputation of the DSG brand is mainly based on Chardonnay, predominantly sourced in the Côte des Blancs grands and premier crus vineyards. At the core of the range are four Blanc de Blancs styles, starting with the Premier Cru Brut sans Année, which Jacopin says accounts for about 80% of production.

We tasted the new Le Blanc Bio – it now has 25ha of certified vineyard, the majority in Vertus – and this is a 50/50, '21 and '20 harvest blend as DSG has only just started building bio reserve wines. With attractive juicy fruit, it's refreshingly crisp with an extra brut dosage. "We want to keep it in the DSG 'white flower' style, it's quite a challenge to make with no reserve wine." DSG Grand Cru 2016 Vintage is a generous and rich wine that draws on Ambonnay, Aÿ and Bouzy Pinot Noir to set against Côte des Blancs Chardonnay with around 25% non-malo material in the blend to keep the freshness.

Orpale 2012 Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru is the pinnacle of production, largely made from the substantial holdings in Oger and Le Mesnil. This is fine, age-worthy wine of real class.

38 LECLERC BRIANT

LECLERC BRIANT.FR

Pascal Leclerc Briant was one of the pioneers of the organic and biodynamic movement in Champagne. At that time nearly everyone else in the appellation – there were exceptions, such as Fleury in Courteron and a couple of other tiny producers – thought it an entirely cranky idea to farm vineyards this far north in France, where it's cold and wet, without using pesticides and herbicides. How times change.

Briant was a great person to have lunch with, to hear an alternative and entirely coherent view of what was going on in Champagne, after his death in 2010, his four daughters gradually sold off what was the largest bio-dynamically farmed estate in all Champagne at 30ha.

The Rouzaud family, in the early days of turning Roederer's

own estate into one organically and biodynamically farmed, bought some of the vineyards (initially 2ha in Cumières), and later another 13ha, plus the brand name, stocks, buildings in Epernay and grape purchase contracts. Lanson and Bruno Paillard also bought vineyard from the sisters.

The Rouzauds only really wanted the vineyard, and soon sold the brand, stock, buildings in Epernay and grape supply contracts to American financier Mark Nunnely and his partner Denise Dupré, the same couple who were behind the revamping of Royal Champagne.

They initially hired vineyard consultant Hervé Jestin, formerly winemaker at Duval Leroy and already known as something of an organic/biodynamic specialist.

They soon appointed Frederic Zeimett, ex Moët Hennessy, to run the house and he and Jestin reshaped the whole operation. They now produce three ranges of wines, most of which are certified organic, including their 'entry level wine' Reserve Extra Brut (2.5g/l), a three-way blend of Pinot (42%) Chardonnay (33%) and Meunier (25%) from the 2021 harvest base.

Three single vineyard wines, like the Blanc de Blancs Les Monts Ferres 2018, are vinified and aged in oak for nine months and retail for around £150.

Leclerc Briant Abyss Brut Zero 2018, is submerged for 12 months under the sea after being disgorged in January 2022 and will set you back around £195 a bottle.

