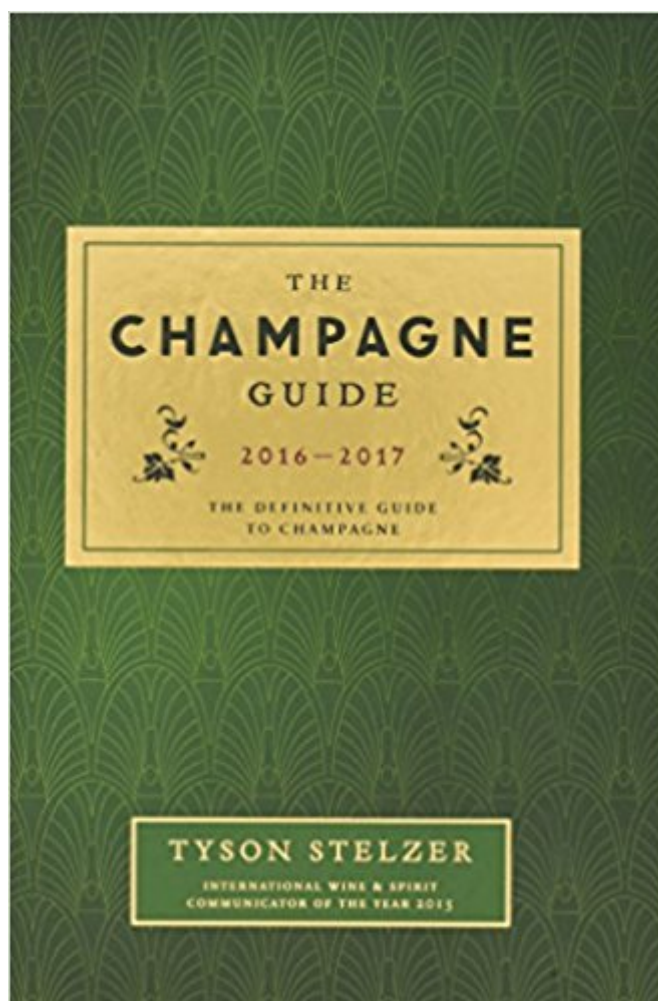


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# The Champagne Guide 2016-2017: The Definitive Guide To Champagne



## Synopsis

The Champagne Guide celebrates the craft of Champagne creation and the people behind making the wine in your glass smell, taste, and bubble like no other. More than 400 Champagnes of the latest, freshest vintages have been tasted, reviewed and rated, and are assessed independently with honest, eloquent descriptions. The 2016-2017 edition profiles 100 Champagne producers, from the smallest growers to the largest houses, and includes chapters on the current issues facing Champagne, from global warming to excessive yields and the antiqued cru system, The Champagne Guide tells you everything you need to know about how Champagne is grown and made and how to buy, open, serve and store Champagne, all for less than the price of a bottle!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Of the new generation of Champagne specialists, Tyson Stelzer is certainly one of the most interesting . with his brilliantly, up-to-date guide" - Tom Stevenson, Decanter magazine

Tyson Stelzer is a multi-award winning wine writer with an annual readership of four million. He was named International Champagne Writer of the Year in The Louis Roederer International Wine Writers' Awards 2011. Tyson is a regular contributor to more than twelve wine magazines including Wine Spectator, America's largest selling wine publication, Decanter, the UK's most prominent wine magazine, and in Australia, Gourmet Traveller Wine, Style Magazine and Australian Wine

Showcase.

Most complete but still missing many of the small producers.

Excellent guide to the complicated world of champagne!

Exceeded all of my expectations. This is my new champagne guide.

Great update guide to the world's best Champagne.

Very good Guide!

Great guide for the champagne novice or experienced lover of the wine!

I have to agree with the title. Among the books on Champagne that I've seen, Tyson Stelzer's is the most definitive. I like the organization. He provides brief histories of each producer, gives them an overall rating (ranging from 5/10 to 10/10) rates years (ranging 1/10 to 10/10) and rates many specific bottles (I believe he may go as low as 85 and he definitely has some 100s, although unless you are wealthy, good luck ever tasting them.) He also categorizes by price, which can provide a useful guide to finding bottles that are both (almost) affordable and drinkable. I also like the fact he provides as much information as possible about the bottles he tastes - which batch of a Non-Vintage bottle, when the bottle was disgorged, where he tasted it, and more. Mr. Stelzer isn't quite as stingy with his ratings as Robert Parker, or I should say as Mr Parker used to be, because I don't believe he is currently providing Wine Advocate's Champagne ratings. I can't remember Parker ever giving a Champagne a 100. I just did a quick browse and found an unusually discrepant example of Mr. Parker rating a bottle lower than Mr. Stelzer. Parker gives the 2004 Veuve Clicquot la Grande Dame Brut a rating of '91'; Stelzer gives this same bottle a '98'. That's an enormous, almost unbelievable difference. (I don't think Mr. Parker is quite as influential vis a vis Champagne as he is with Bordeaux/Napa Cabs, where his ratings often set the price.) As good as Mr. Stelzer's book is, it's important to remember that it's filled with one person's opinions. Personally I think he is too lenient with some bottles. It has to be hard to do what he does for a living and not become chummy with the producers, who I am sure are also very gracious and charming people. I think he may be too kind to Moet & Chandon's Dom Parignon. I've read they produce as many as five million bottles, which is

believable because it's for sale everywhere. He rates the 2002, '98' and the 2004, '97'. I've tasted both. I'm by no means an expert, but I think it's easier to distinguish between good and great champagne than it is between, for example, good and great dry reds. I don't think either Dom deserves such a high rating. IMO, the 2005 Taittinger Comptes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs, which he rates, '94', is better than both. But disagreements are good. They contribute to making wine collecting and tasting a fascinating hobby.\*

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