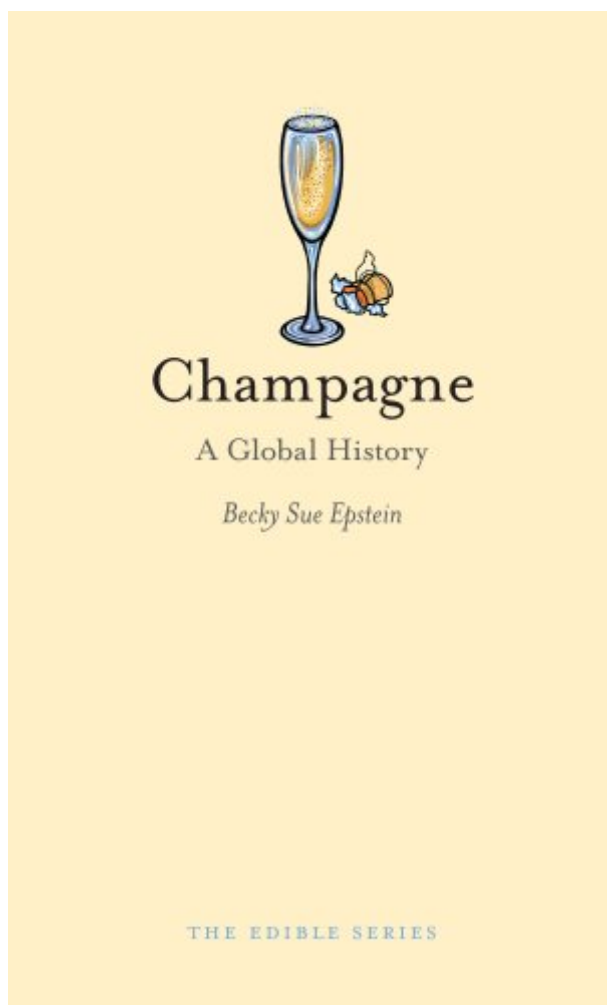


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# Champagne: A Global History (Edible)



## Synopsis

From the smash of a bottle on the side of a new ship to the pop of a cork at a party, champagne signals celebration, fun and camaraderie. Bubbly, as we affectionately call sparkling wine, is a symbol of luxury and decadence and the preferred drink for any important toast. Champagne reveals the history of the world's great sparkling wines, telling the stories of the people who made champagne famous " from Dom Pérignon to Veuve Clicquot " and describing the evolution of the sparkling wines of other regions that are now so popular. Starting with the story of the first modern French sparkling wines to be traded, produced by monks in Limoux, Languedoc in 1531, Becky Sue Epstein takes us on a tour of vineyards around the world, from the Champagne region itself through Germany, Spain and the New World, and tells the story of the fiercely guarded right to use the "champagne" name. Explaining the science behind the characteristic fizz and bubble, she also teaches us the correct techniques for storing and serving champagne and sparkling wine, and the distinctions between them. Whether you prefer magnums of Cristal or the more affordable thrill of prosecco or cava, Champagne is an invaluable complement to a glass of bubbly as well as an informative, elegant gift for all wine-lovers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a lovely little book, full of solid historical information, as well as funny, trendy modern details of champagne about and why we love it. I thought I knew a lot about the region, Champagne, and the beverage, champagne, but then I read Ms. Epstein's book and found out how much more there was to know. I plan to buy a few copies of the book, get some baskets and put a book and bottle in each, tie them up with a ribbon and then I'll have handy gifts for the holiday season. Now wait, does sell champagne?

In today's busy world this fact-filled book is just the thing when you are at a wine store searching for the perfect bottle to bring to a party, or more important, the "story" behind the bottle! Or at a restaurant, you can zip past those \$300 bottles of fine champagne and find an excellent Spanish or Italian sparkler for under \$30. The writer has a fun style that engages the reader and keeps one interest.

It's amazing how much information, anecdote and effervescence is packed into this compact, champagne-coloured, volume by wine and spirits expert Becky Sue Epstein. Compelling reading that celebrates while also demystifying the mystique of champagne, this is an accessible and entertaining book that should appeal to connoisseurs and beginner bubbly-lovers alike. Epstein manages to take the guilt out of buying inexpensive sparkling wine by pointing out that champagne is, after all, ONLY a sparkling wine - dignified by its colourful history and careful marketing by the fiercely protective producers in the Champagne region of France. She made me feel better about what I'd previously seen as settling for a sparkling wine such as a Spanish 'Cava' - or a Californian 'Brut' that I've learned from this book uses the same grapes as champagne. So now if friends seem to look down their noses as my bubbles go up them I can quote chapter and verse to show them that there is no excuse for being a champagne snob. This is an ideal gift book for actual or aspiring lovers of the good life.

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