



# Jamie Goode

You don't need to go far for lovely bubbly – our expert toasts fizz from England

It wasn't so long ago that the idea of England being a serious wine-producing country was thought of as a bit of a joke. But then we discovered that England has the ideal soils and climate for making quality sparkling wine, so now the world is sitting up and taking notice. These wines might seem expensive, but they're top-notch – and the top producers are struggling to keep up with demand. Try some to see what all the fuss is about.

**Camel Valley Classic Cuvée 2013** £28, Marks & Spencer, 12.5% alcohol  
Camel Valley is one of the UK's

most talked-about wineries. Based in Cornwall, it has a fabulously consistent range, including this equal-parts blend of the three champagne varieties. It has subtle toast and citrus characters as well as a bit of fruity sweetness.

**Hambledon Classic Cuvée NV, Hampshire** £29, Marks & Spencer, Waitrose, 12% alcohol  
Hambledon was the first English winery of the modern era, but went out of production. It has now been resurrected and is making superb wines from its chalky soils. This is very pure, lemony and lively with bright acidity and real poise.

**Digby Fine English Leander Pink NV** £29.99, Marks & Spencer, Waitrose, 12% alcohol  
Here's a fabulous fizz that's nicely packaged. There are hints of spring hedgerows and rhubarb as well as clean, pure citrus fruits plus some red cherries. It's stylish stuff.

**Wiston Estate Rosé 2011** £35.95, [corneyandbarrow.com](http://corneyandbarrow.com) (020 7265 2430), 12% alcohol  
This beautiful pale-pink fizz shows the very linear, focused style of wine maker Dermot Sugrue. It's so bright, with high but well-integrated acidity and fruity flavours of lemons, cherries and plums.

**Nyetimber Blanc de Blancs 2009, Sussex** £39.95, 31dover.com (0333 900 3131), Harvey Nichols, 12% alcohol  
Nyetimber is possibly the most famous of all the English sparkling wine producers and it's recently released this, a 100-per-cent chardonnay. It's superbly refined, taut and pure, and well worth the hefty price tag.

**Ridgeview Estate Grosvenor Blanc de Blancs 2011, Sussex** £29.95, [bbr.com](http://bbr.com) (0800 280 2440), 12% alcohol  
Ridgeview is one of the country's most consistent producers, and

this is a pure, fine fizz with delicious clean citrus and white-peach fruit plus nice integrated acidity. It's one of the UK's star bottles.

**Gusbourne Blanc de Blancs 2010** £39.95, [leaandsandeman.co.uk](http://leaandsandeman.co.uk) (020 7244 0522), 12% alcohol

Gusbourne is another of the UK's leading producers and this is its top wine, the blanc de blancs, made just from chardonnay. It oozes finesse, with a subtle toastiness accompanying the lemony fruit. It's taut, focused and precise. ☺



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