

# Bottles of Bliss

*Wines to give – even to yourself – when the year’s been very, very good*

By Bob Hosmon and Mark Gauert

**I**f 2014 was a good year for you – and we hope it was – reward yourself with a great wine treat. Not the kind of wine you might drink every day (although you may want to), but with a rarely tasted libation that you’ll forever remember sipping. You can get that sensation from wines like these:

Dom Perignon Rosé (\$320+) and Krug Brut Vintage (\$500+) are two special sparklers. It’s a question of whether you want something pretty in pink or a rich, hearty champagne that lingers on the palate. You can’t go wrong with either choice.

If French Bordeaux is what you daydream about, you’d be hard pressed to find anything that can beat the 2009 Château Mouton Rothschild (\$900+). And you don’t have to take our word for it. Noted wine critic Robert Parker gave this wine a rare score of 99. If you’re looking for something special in a lower price range, opt for the 2005 Château Lassègue (\$150) from Saint-Émilion. When compared to many more expensive Bordeaux wines, it’s a bargain.

Prefer something Italian? Then you must have a bottle of Sassicaia (\$220+). It was the first of the Super Tuscans, and it got the attention of everyone by blending cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc with the traditional sangiovese grape. One sip and it’ll get your attention too.

From the United States, it’s the pricey reds from California that get the rave reviews. That includes any of Ann Colgin’s extraordinary Colgin Estate Reds (\$400+), any of the outstanding pinot noir wines from Donum (\$100+), the Bordeaux-style Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon (\$145), any of the Nickel & Nickel reds (\$100+), the 2010 Dollarhide Estate cabernet sauvignon (\$100) from St. Supéry Estate Vineyards & Winery, the Best of Show red wine this year at the American Fine Wine Competition in South Florida; and Stag’s Leap’s 2010 Artemis (\$55), a bargain with an AFWC gold medal as well.

