



SPRAY IT OUT LOUD

Our Dominant 20 athletes had much to celebrate in 2018, but only a few (we see you, Red Sox) received the traditional champagne bath in all its eye-stinging glory. It's never too late, though! With New Year's Eve night, we asked sommelier and wine writer Courtney Schiessl for her picks of the most appropriate bubbly for their year-end jublations.



Breanna Stewart
When you deserve a bottle as fancy as LeBron's but you're not balling on his budget:

Vilarnau Brut Reserva Cava NV \$15 **SCHIESSL:** "From Spain's Cava country comes this crisp sparkler, made in the same method as champagne by a female winemaker who understands that sparkling wines should pack bang for their buck."



LeBron James
To bring to your pal's New Year's Eve party—before you encourage him to retire:

Laurent-Perrier Grand Siècle champagne NV \$150 "Churchill once said, 'I could not live without champagne. In victory I deserve it; in defeat I need it.' Likewise this wine honors a 'grand century'—a time that, like Melo's career, may be over."



Eliud Kipchoge
For a world-class endurance athlete with #nodaysoff:

Miller High Life \$8.99/12 "World records deserve to be celebrated, but don't let it go to your head—the alcohol, that is. Few sparkling wines clock in under 11 percent ABV, so stick with the Champagne of Beers, Miller High Life [4.6 percent ABV]."



Simona Halep
After you win at Roland Garros and want to impress your new French admirers:

Leclerc Briant Brut Réserve NV champagne \$65 "The French know their wine, and the organic, biodynamic bottles are making waves at local bistros. This organic Brut Réserve is about energy and impact, just like Halep's return game."



Mookie Betts
When you want to leave an enduring stench for Astros, Yankees and Dodgers to enjoy:

Cleto Chiarli Vecchia Modena Lambrusco 2017 \$15 "Shake up the usual champagne shower with this dry Lambrusco from Italy. Stark pink with a nose of turned earth and cranberry, it'll leave home teams scrubbing up long after the trophy's back in Boston."



Alex Ovechkin
To drink out of the spitty Stanley Cup you've been hauling around DC during a weeklong rager:

Adriano Adamo Garbèl Brut prosecco NV \$15 "This zesty prosecco will act as a tasty Pine-Sol for the Cup, scrubbing away whatever was chugged earlier in the week. Then just for good measure, try some penicillin."



Patrick Mahomes
For those inclined to pair everything with ketchup [look it up, it's a thing]:

William Chris Pétillant-Naturel Rosé 2017 \$25 "Sparkling wine's acidity allows it to pair with most anything, from KC BBQ to ketchup-coated mac and cheese. This all-American pét-nat matches any dish thrown at it. Even the weird ones."



Chloe Kim
When you're still only 18 and need a nonalcoholic alternative:

Ein Zwei Zero Sparkling Riesling \$21 "Taking home gold won't exempt you from drinking-age laws. But this, made from Riesling grapes by an actual winemaker, is the next-best thing. Skip the grocery store cider and stash the strong stuff for 2022."