

# HAND PICKED SELECTIONS

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## Champagne Selections for the Holidays

FEATURED WINES FROM HAND PICKED SELECTIONS

### **BERTRAND DELESPIERRE**

Didier Bertrand and Chantal Delespierre are grower-producers farming 24 acres in the Montagne de Reims in the Champagne heartland. The two Champagnes reviewed here are exemplary of the outstanding quality of their wines. Importer: Hand Picked Selections, Warrenton, VA

#### **93 pts. Brut Tradition Premier Cru Chamery (\$63)**

The Brut Tradition is a blend of 40% Pinot Noir, 35% Pinot Meunier, and 25% Chardonnay. It offers fragrant aromas of lemon citrus and toast. On the palate it reveals a refined mousse with a creamy mouth feel, more toast and yeast notes and a long finish.

#### **93+ pts. 2004 Vintage Brut Premier Cru Chamery (\$71)**

The 2004 Vintage Brut is slightly more complex than the Brut Tradition. A blend of one third each of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay, it spends a minimum of three years on the lees before disgorgement. It exhibits light aromas of orchard fruit with autolytic toast notes. The palate is rich and creamy with lush fruit flavors and a long finish with hints of fennel.

### **JEAN LAURENT**

This grower produces stunning hand crafted NV Champagnes from a 39-acre vineyard in the village of Celles-Sur Ource in the Aube, an outlying Champagne district south of the Marne. Jean Laurent's family has grown wine in the village for more than 1,000 years. His NV bruts are typically blended from three vintages and aged for a minimum of three years on the lees. Importer: Hand Picked Selections Warrenton, VA

#### **92 pts. Blanc de Blancs Brut NV Celles-Sur Ource (\$63)**

This 100% Chardonnay is pleasantly aromatic with a fruity nose of melon and toasted oak. It is nicely flavored on the palate with lemon citrus notes. It has a creamy mouth feel with rich autolytic notes, excellent balance and a long finish.

#### **90 pts. Blanc de Noirs Brut NV Celles-Sur Ource (\$60)**

The Blanc de Noir is Jean Laurent's flagship wine. It reveals lovely red berry fruit with toast and lees notes. It has a nicely textured palate with good acidity and balance and a long persistent dry finish.

#### **88 pts. Brut Rosé NV Celles-Sur Ource (\$63)**

This rosé of 100% Pinot Noir has ripe red berry aromas and spicy flavors of strawberry marmalade. The palate is creamy with good volume and texture and a long finish.

Read the full article here: <http://i-winereview.com/NonReportTastings/1112champagneSelections.php>



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