

**ED'S TOP TIPPLES**



**Valentine's Day is for cliches and cliches mean it's time for pink fizz**

The coming days will be a flurry of card buying, flower ordering and then wondering, what should we eat and drink. All in celebration of the patron saint of Hallmark cards – St Valentine.

I am of course a total cynic, but I am also easily led and therefore totally buy in to the most cliched time of year.

February 14th, Valentine's Day, or Galentine's Day, or any of the other of the alternative options out there.

It's about telling the person, or people, you care about most that you love them and you're there for them. Bring on the love hearts, the roses and the steak suppers.

But what are you going to wash it down with? Well. This is about cliches isn't it? So, it must be pink fizz.

Champagne, sure, but there are plenty of great alternatives out there. Look to Italy for great value fizz, the home of Prosecco holds the key to many hidden gems many of which are not Prosecco at all.

Like this lush Lambrusco, l'Occhiolino Rosato, with its art deco label, looks the part and is a couple of degrees lower in alcohol than many alternatives. This is fun, fruity and zingy.

Bottega Pink Gold comes in a very showy bottle, glitter and all, inside the bottle is award-winning Prosecco, this is one of the very first Prosecco Rose wines to ever be produced after the Italian wine authorities approved it in 2020. These wines are available in a number of supermarkets, and also on Amazon.

A great choice is to keep things local. English sparkling wine is well worth seeking out and there is a great pink choice right here in Shropshire. Rowton Pink Fizz is made with grapes grown just a few miles outside Shrewsbury. You can buy online, from selected local outlets and they also pop up at markets in Shrewsbury.

If only Champagne will do for you then try Piaff Brut Rosé. Its gentle fizz and full array

of summer fruits will slide down nicely. You'll find it available online. Or push the boat out, head to Tanners and find the Billecart-Salmon Rosé on the shelf, this is delectable Champagne, clean and fresh with red berries and real zest. Whoever you're with and whatever you're drinking, have a lovely time. Cheers.

**L'OCCHIOLINO ROSATO, £8.99 AT LAITHWAITES**

**BOTTEGA PINK GOLD, £29.49 ON AMAZON**

**ROWTON PINK FIZZ, £25 DIRECT FROM ROWTON VINEYARD**

**PIAFF ROSÉ BRUT, £51.50 WITH A FREE PAIR OF SOCKS! FROM AMATHUS DRINKS**

**BILLECART-SALMON BRUT ROSÉ, £76 AT TANNERS**

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