Love & Libations: Sparkling Wine for Holiday Date Nights





By Yolanda Shoshana

December, a month packed with festive holiday gatherings, is the perfect time for sparkling wine. It's also a great way to pop into 2018. Bubbly is known for special occasions, so whichever holidays you celebrate, there's a bottle that will pair perfectly for your situation. Honestly, it's always a good time for sparkling wine. Even if you are having a quiet date night at home, you can break out the bubbles!

Enjoy Celebrity Sparkling Wine on

Your Next Date Night

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If you are looking for a sparkling wine to keep on hand, Giuliana Prosecco is the way to go. Most people know Giuliana Rancic from her days on *E! News*. Besides being a host, she also owns a few restaurants with her handsome husband, Bill Rancic. This year, Giuliana launched her Prosecco at their Chicago-based restaurants as an affordable and quality wine. Now, you can enjoy it with your friends and family for some added holiday cheer. It's like inviting this celebrity couple over for a good time!

When you want an elegant sparkling wine, pick up a bottle of Christie Brinkley's Bellissima DOC Brut. Brinkley is all about clean living, so it's no surprise that her wine is made with organic grapes. Produced in the beautiful region of Treviso, let your palate travel to Italy as you enjoy the aromas of green apples and baked bread. If you and your boo are having a quiet night in for New Year's Eve, let this choice be your goto.

Former NBA player, Yao Ming, got into the wine game in 2011. The Napa-based winery is known for producing stellar wines. If you are planning a grown and sexy night with your partner, the Yao Ming Napa Valley Brut will add a special touch to your evening. Made with Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes, this crisp sparkler is flirty on the palate. It will add a touch of seduction to your evening. Yao brings in the meow.

If you want a sparkling wine that comes with a sassy attitude, you can always go with Myx Classico Sangria by Nicki Minaj. There's something about bubbly sangria that screams "good time." The best part about this wine is that it's ready to go. No need to mix up anything — just open the bottle and sip!

This Spanish wine-based sangria is a good one to drink while binging on romantic Christmas movies with your girl squad or with your partner (who may act like he doesn't want to watch, but secretly, you know he does).

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Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines

When Steve Amell isn't charming viewers as *The Arrow*, you can probably find him at his winery, Nocking Point, in Washington. Their limited edition Pacific Coast Pink sparkling rosé is a must-have for the holidays. It pairs perfectly with just about every holiday treat or meal. The sparkler is produced in New Mexico, which is such a fabulous area for sparkling wines that you may get hooked. This wine is perfect for that holiday party you're hosting later this month.

For more Love & Libations date night ideas and <u>celebrity</u> <u>couple</u> predictions from Yolanda Shoshana, click <u>here</u>.

Celebrity Christmas Weddings





By Whitney Johnson

The holidays are said to be the most wonderful time of the year, so it's no surprise that so many couples — famous faces and everyday folks alike — choose to walk down the aisle around Christmas. Thanks to lightly falling snow, flickering fireplaces, and cozy color palettes, the wedding practically plans itself. Whether they embraced the cold crispness in the air or escaped the winter wonderland and headed somewhere warm, the celebrity couples below ensured that their holiday seasons were all the more magical because of their plans to say "I do."

1. Cassandra Jean and Stephen Amell: The handsome star of The CW's hit show Arrow married the former America's Next Top Model contestant during a small sunset ceremony officiated by a close friend in the Caribbean on Christmas Day in 2012. The couple had a second wedding in New Orleans on May 26, 2013, and welcomed their daughter Mavi Alexandra Jean Amell, in October.

Related: Stephen Amell Marries Cassandra Jean for the Second

- 2. Katherine Heigl and Josh Kelley: These two lovebirds exchanged personally-written vows in Park City, Utah, on December 23, 2007. The wedding took place at the Stein Eriksen Lodge, and the tent was decorated with white flowers and white candles, both of which complimented the fresh show. The actress was decked out in a custom-made Oscar de la Renta gown and walked down the aisle to an acoustic song written by her husband-to-be. Bringing in a bit of Christmas spirit, Heigl's bridesmaids wore red.
- 3. Danielle Deleasa and Kevin Jonas: The pop star made sure that his "Jersey Girl" had a wedding fit for a princess: The couple tied the knot at Oheksa Castle in Huntington, New York, on December 19, 2009. Jonas even gifted his bride, who wore a strapless tulle and Chantilly lace Vera Wang gown, with a pair of glass slippers on the big day. With the groom's brothers, Nick and Joe, serving as the best men and his father officiating the traditional ceremony, it was a family affair one that most certainly extended into the holidays.
- 4. Crystal Harris and Hugh Hefner: A tumultuous courtship preempted this couple's big day: Harris began dating Hefner in January 2009 and initially broke off their engagement in June 2011 only five days before she was set to walk down the aisle. Nearly a year later, the twosome reunited. They became re-engaged on December 1, 2012 and married in a small ceremony at the Playboy Mansion on New Year's Eve of that year. A perfect way to end the holiday season and ring in the new year!

Related: <u>Hugh Hefner and Crystal Harris Tie the Knot on NYE</u>

5. Perrie Edwards and Zayn Malik: This musically-talented pair, who only got engaged in August, is hoping to say "I do" before Christmas of this year. The reason for the rushed wedding is quite practical: Edwards, a member of the British

girl group Little Mix, is dreading being away from her fiancé when he departs for One Direction's 2014 tour, and she's hoping it'll be easier if they're hitched. Only time will tell if these plans come to fruition!

Cupid wants to know: Would you ever want a holiday wedding? Why or why not?

Celebrity Couple: Stephen Amell Marries Cassandra Jean for the Second Time





By April Littleton

Arrow star Stephen Amell and the Hart of Dixie actress Cassandra Jean tied the knot for the second time in New Orleans Sunday, May 26. The happy couple originally married during a Caribbean vacation last Christmas. Before returning to shoot the second season of Arrow, Amell plans to travel the world with his wife. He told <u>UsMagazine.com</u>, "We're mixing in some international promotion for the show with a nice vacation. Stockholm, London, Monte Carlo, Toronto and China."

What are some creative ways to renew your wedding vows?

Cupid's Advice:

Renewing your vows is a way for you and your partner to declare your love for one another all over again. Getting your vows renewed expresses the fact that you're still interesting in keeping the commitment you pledged to your significant other all those years ago. Are you thinking about reaffirming your love in a special way? Cupid has some advice:

- 1. Go somewhere exotic: If your original wedding was close to home, take your renewal ceremony as an opportunity to plan a trip! Renew your vows in Hawaii or Italy! If there's a place you and your partner always wanted to visit, consider using that location for your special day.
- 2. Make it a surprise: Hide your vow renewal plans from your spouse until the big day! Trick your partner into getting dressed up and lead them to the renewal location. Make sure your friends and family show up ahead of time and have your vows in hand. This will surely be a surprise your loved one will enjoy!
- 3. Write your own vows: If you used traditional vows during your wedding, switch things up a bit and write your own this time around. Your personalized vows can say just about

anything you want. Reminisce over your first date or talk about the birth of your first child. This is the time to look back on those special memories you and your partner share together and remind them you still love them just as much as you did when you first said "I do."

Have you renewed your vows? How did you make it creative? Share your experience below.