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## Quality bubbly wines under \$25

BY SHELBY VITTEK

Tradition tells us to welcome the new year with a glass of Champagne in hand. Top-of-the-line Champagne can be wonderful, but though it may be a festive way to celebrate, it isn't always the most practical. With decent bottles starting around \$45, and better ones costing much more, sticking with tradition won't get you very far on a tight budget...

Proseccos can be found in stores and will be categorized by their levels of sweetness as brut, dry or extra dry. The backwards thing is that "dry" actually means sweet, "brut" always means dry, and falling between the two is "extra dry." Somewhere along the way, the actual meanings must have been lost in translation. Be sure to look for Prosecco Superiore D.O.C.G., which will be labeled as such. Proseccos bearing the D.O.C.G. designation come specifically from Conegliano-Valdobbiadene, and are more refined with greater character than the more basic, widely grown proseccos from the D.O.C. designation.

You'll be plenty prepared for New Year's Eve partying with any of the bottles below. All are priced below \$25, and most under \$20, making it easy and reasonable to survey the entire sparkling scene well into 2016.



### **Bellenda San Fermo Brut Prosecco Superiore D.O.C.G.**

From: Valdobbiadene, Italy

The details: From one of my favorite prosecco producers, this wine has a bouquet of white flowers, and pleasant lemon and pear flavors. An enjoyable sparkler, with elegant bubbles and a dry finish.



**VISION WINE & SPIRITS, LLC**

700 Plaza Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor ♦ Secaucus ♦ New Jersey 07094  
T. 201.210.0400/888.535.5522 ♦ F. 201.319.0660