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Life

SECTION D

Destinations & Diversions

Best bargain wines

Happy new year, you Brut



USA TODAY's **Jerry Shriver** recommends a wine that costs \$15 or less in his Cheers! blog each day at cheers.usatoday.com. Here's a highlight from this week's selections:

Champalou Brut, Vouvray, Loire Valley, France, about \$15. I chose this delightful bone-dry Chenin Blanc-based sparkler to re-emphasize that you don't need big bucks to have high-quality bubbly for New Year's Eve. And you don't have to source those bubbles from Champagne. Other parts of France, notably the Loire and Alsace, produce fantastic low-cost sparklers, as do Spain (cavas), Italy (Prosecco and Franciacorta) and California, Oregon, New York and Virginia.