



Bring out the bubbles

Jancis Robinson picks the best in festive fizz

LIFE & ARTS PAGE 5



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Food & Drink | Style | Travel | Arts | Books | TV



Style

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Arts

Peter Aspden on the greatest films never made **Page 14**

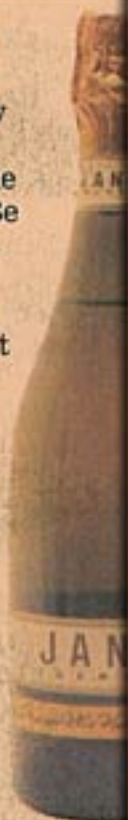
Food & Drink

Time to sparkle: Jancis Robinson on the best festive fizz **Page 5**



FT WEEKEND | Saturday December 12 / Sunday December 13 2009

Champagne is being used mercilessly by the big UK retailers in the fight for your custom. Be circumspect over which "bargain" you choose. Not all famous names taste as good as the best growers' champagnes, and most supermarket own brands are decidedly inferior. Careful winnowing was needed to produce the list of distinctly superior wine buys below. Head for 2002, a great champagne vintage drinking deliciously now. All wines below are 12 to 13 per cent alcohol, and all but the first four are champagne. Some smaller merchants may impose minimum orders and charge extra for delivery. For international stockists, see www.winesearcher.com



Ch Rives-Blanques 2007 Blanquette de Limoux

Drink 2009-10

Mainly apple-like

Mauzac grapes. Light,

fresh nose with real

bite and length. Well done

– very refreshing.

From £12.40 Tanners; £12.50

Great Western Wine; £13 The

Vintry; £12.99 or £11.69 a case

James Nicholson

