



## CUVÉE CARTE BLANCHE

**Champagne Paul Dangin & Fils, Champagne, France**

**LCBO # 450460 | 12.0% alc./vol. | \$51.95 | Release: 15-Oct-2016**

Our most versatile and elegant champagne. This cuvée carte blanche is perfect each time for each reason. Citrusy and green apple elegant start grows into discrete but long and complex finale. All the expertise of the Dangin family was necessary for create this wonderful cuvée.

*“...only those in the know would see it for the gem it is...This beautiful Blanc de Blancs Champagne, which Maxim’s of Paris has been serving for years (with Maxim’s labeling of course). Pierced by a delicate string of tiny, persistent bubbles and brimming with aromas and flavor of the bestever apple crumble edged with salted nuts, this wine is drop-dead gorgeous. Paul Dangin & Fils also supplies Champagne to the British royal household by appointment from Her Majesty the Queen.”*

**Score - 94p. (Carolyn Evans-Hammond, The Toronto Star & Metro News, 2016)**

### Winery:

The Dangin family is **the largest independent family producer** in champagne with ten family members working together to perpetuate the spirit of the founder Paul DANGIN. Our house is known for exceptional value and quality and awarded as

- the only family champagne supplier (through J&B label) of **Royal Warrant Holder** of the British court.
- supplier of American Airlines Business class
- producer of Maxim's Restaurant cuvee.

### Terroir:

**54 ha** of vineyards are located on South of the Champagne Bar on the coast, on the borders of the Upper Seine and Ource Valley. This area is a sunny hillside in a wooded area, surrounded by meadows and fields. Composed of white clay, soil terroir is unique.

### Vinification:

Grapes are hand harvested early when there is still high acid levels, then grapes quickly pressed and separated from their skins. First fermentation in stainless steel. Second fermentation in the bottle. 2 years on lees.

**Variety:** Chardonnay 100%.

**Sugar:** 9 g/L

**Serving suggestion and food pairing:** Serve at ~9°C. Great aperitif. Ideal accompaniment for seafood like scallops or grilled lobster, fish, salmon white meats, roasted pork, poultry and cheeses.



Carolyn Evans-Hammond '16

94p

22 | Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Food | metroLIFE

# 5

## WINES FOR WHATEVER TYPE OF BOSS YOU HAVE

Face it. You can't buy your boss a piece of clothing (too personal) or cologne (too allusive). But you can never go wrong with a bottle of wine. So to help you wrap up your gift game, we've paired five bottles to five breeds of bosses. See if you can find yours on the list.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### 1 Young and restless boss

**2015 Big Bill Ridiculously Big Cabernet Sauvignon, Western Cape, South Africa (LCBO 457119, \$12.95, In stores only)**

If your boss is under 35 and recently discovered the glories of fermented grape juice, thrill him or her with this red — it's a bit of a big deal. Not only does it sport a funky name and cool label, it tastes amazing, with loads of ripe, opulent fruit layered with notes of bonfire, cigar, baking spices. This bottle was made to honour William "Big Bill" Millar, the boxing champ, war hero and first GM of this wine's winery. **Score: 89+**

### 2 Praise-happy boss

**Santa Margherita Brut Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Veneto, Italy (Vintages Essential 687582, \$18.95 reg., \$16.95 till Dec. 30)**

You know the boss whose eagerness to praise knows no bounds? The one who lives for small successes, publicly applauding everything. Resist the urge to give him or her a box of shiny stars and instead give something to toast the next achievement. So give a bottle or two of this delicious, dry, pear-and-seaspray-scented Prosecco and be done with it. **Score: 94**



### 3 The Devil Wears Prada boss

**NV Paul Dangin & Fils Brut Cuvee Carte Blanche Champagne, France (Vintages 450460, \$51.95, In stores only)**

To impress this bejewelled boss, you need something so profoundly stylish that only those in the know would see it for the gem it is. The find? This beautiful Blanc de Blancs Champagne, which Maxim's of Paris has been serving for years (with Maxim's labelling of course). Pierced by a delicate string of tiny, persistent bubbles and brimming with aromas and flavour of the best-ever apple crumble edged with salted nuts, this wine is drop-dead gorgeous. Paul Dangin & Fils also supplies Champagne to the British royal household by appointment from Her Majesty the Queen. **Score: 94**



### 4 Creative genius boss

**2013 Big Smooth Old Vine Zinfandel, California (Vintages 470179, \$24.95, In stores only)**

If you work for a creative genius, odds are they didn't move up the ranks by MBA skills alone. So give a bottle that's both smart and scrumptious — such as The Big Smooth, which just hit shelves. The leg-lamp label symbolizes the holidays because it's a prop from A Christmas Story; the plum velvet label mirrors the wine's flavour and texture; and the wine's instant appeal, complexity and polished purity of fruit says you know your stuff. Best part? None of this will be lost on the recipient. **Score: 91**

### 5 Button down boss

**2010 Montecillo Rioja Reserva, Rioja, Spain (LCBO 621003, \$18.15)**

If your boss is the buttoned-down type, s/he no doubt has a built-in, knee-jerk, deeply-ingrained appreciation of the classics. And this traditional Rioja Reserva, with six years of age on it, is sure to please and offers exceptional value for money. It's sleek glossy texture slides across the palate then broadens and deepens almost instantly to reveal rich but bone dry flavours of black cherry and black raspberry edged with vanilla bean, milk chocolate, coffee bean, toasty oak and toffee. A lovely chalky-texture on the finish holds the flavour intact for ages. You'll want to buy one for yourself, too. **Score: 92**



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## DRINKABLE GIFT IDEAS FOR YOUR BOSS



Carolyn  
Evans Hammond

Face it. You can't buy your boss a piece of clothing (too personal), or cologne (too allusive) or a book on how to be a better boss or human being (as tempting as that may be). But you can never go wrong with a bottle of wine. So to help you wrap up your gift game, I've paired five bottles to five breeds of bosses. See if you can find yours on the list.



**Devil Wears Prada boss**  
NV Paul Dangin & Fils Brut Cuvée Carte Blanche Champagne, France (Vintages 450460, \$5195, in stores only)

To impress this bewitched boss, you need something so profoundly stylish that she'll be sure to remember you for it for the gem it is. The find? This bewitching blanc de Blancs Champagne, which Maxin's has been bottling and aging for years (with Maxin's labelling of course). It's a blend of 90% Chardonnay, 10% Pinot Meunier with tiny, persistent bubbles and brimming with aromas and flavor of the best-ever Chardonnay. It's a bit like a nutty, nutty, this wine is drop-dead gorgeous.

Paul Dangin & Fils also supplies Château Margaux, one of the Queen's holiday appointment from Her Majesty the Queen.

Score: 94



**Pratik-happy boss**  
Santa Margherita Brut Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Veneto, Italy (Vintages Essential 687582, in stores only)

You know the boss whose eagerness to praise knows no bounds. The one who loves to be the center of attention, applauding everything from big business deals to the most mundane ideas in the office. If your boss is a creative genius, odds are he didn't move up the ranks by MBA skills alone. No, he probably applied his creative genius to his job — and to his boss. He has the urge to give him or her a box of shiny trinkets, a hand-knit scarf, a bottle of bubbly, a knee-pick, deeply-ingrained appreciation of the classics. And the traditional Italian sparkling wine is a great representation of the classics. And the traditional Italian sparkling wine is a great representation of the classics. And the traditional Italian sparkling wine is a great representation of the classics.

It doesn't have to be particularly fancy, but it should be tasty because chances are you'll be having a glass. So give a bottle of this bubbly, which is as bubbly as the Big Smooth. Which just hit shelves Dec. 10. The leg-lamp bottle that is. The Big Smooth, which is a prop from *A Christmas Story*: the plum velvet label mirrors the wine's plum velvet label, and the bottle has instant appeal: complexity and polished purity of that says you know exactly what you're getting. And it will be lost on the recipient recipient.

Score: 91



**Creative genius boss**  
2013 Big Smooth Old Vine Zinfandel, California (Vintages 47079, \$24.95, in stores only)

If your boss is a creative genius, odds are he didn't move up the ranks by MBA skills alone. No, he probably applied his creative genius to his job — and to his boss. He has the urge to give him or her a box of shiny trinkets, a hand-knit scarf, a bottle of bubbly, a knee-pick, deeply-ingrained appreciation of the classics. And the traditional Italian sparkling wine is a great representation of the classics. And the traditional Italian sparkling wine is a great representation of the classics.

It's a prop from *A Christmas Story*: the plum velvet label mirrors the wine's plum velvet label, and the bottle has instant appeal: complexity and polished purity of that says you know exactly what you're getting. And it will be lost on the recipient recipient.

Score: 92+



**Button-down boss**  
2010 Montefelio Big Bill Cabernet Sauvignon, Rioja, Spain (LCBO 629003, \$1835)

If your boss is the buttoned-down type, the kind who wears a suit and tie, who likes to be the center of attention, who appreciates a bottle of bubbly, a knee-pick, deeply-ingrained appreciation of the classics. And the traditional Italian sparkling wine is a great representation of the classics. And the traditional Italian sparkling wine is a great representation of the classics.

It's a tribute to a real-life hero, William "Big Bill" Miller, the boxer who inspired the bottle. A lovely chalky-texture on the finish holds the favour intact for ages. And it's a great gift idea for anyone who wants to buy one for yourself, too.

Score: 92



**The young-and-the restless boss**  
2015 Big Bill Ridiculously Big Cabernet Sauvignon, Western Cape, South Africa (LCBO 45719, \$12.95, in stores only)

If your boss is under 35 and recently discovered their stories of fermenting grapes in a bucket, this is the bottle for this kid — it's a bit of a big deal. Not only does it sport a funky name and a cool bottle shape, it's a bottle that's ripe, opulent fruit layered with notes of chocolate and coffee, and a touch of chocolate-covered burnt almond. And the wine is a tribute to a real-life hero, William "Big Bill" Miller, the boxer who was made to honour William "Big Bill" Miller, the boxer champ, war hero, and legend. And it's a great gift idea for this wine's winery, KVV. A solid gift idea for the millennial boss.

Score: 89+

Carolyn Evans Hammond is a Toronto-based wine writer. She is also a London-trained sommelier and two-time bestselling wine book author. Reach her at [carolyn@carolynhammond.com](mailto:carolyn@carolynhammond.com).