

**D1** December 23-29, 2016  
EPOCH TIMES

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# ‘Always Champagne.’

*Champagne and other bubblies  
shouldn't be saved for only special  
occasions, says wine expert  
Mark Oldman*

By Channaly Philipp | Epoch Times Staff

**F**or some reason, we Americans tend to reserve bubbly for celebrations.

“This is one of the great issues with bubbly—people save it for birthdays and ball drops,” said Mark Oldman, a wine expert based in New York’s Chelsea neighborhood. Not the case for him.

If there’s an ultimate way to open a bottle of bubbly, this is it. Mark Oldman sabered over 30 bottles in Central Park last spring for a photo shoot for his book cover. When he gave the sabered bottles away to passersby, half were suspicious, and half were delighted. “It was a sloppy mess by the end, but we got our shot,” he said.

“A wise person once told me to always have a bottle of Champagne in your fridge in case of joy,” he said in a phone interview. If you peeked into his fridge, you’d find some cava and a nonvintage Tarlant “Cuvée Louis” Brut Champagne.

“Is the stash reserved for little joys or great joys?” I ask.

“Often little moments of joy,” he says. “In other words, people coming over, making it through the day, not having back pain. Or having back pain.” He laughs, a lightly effervescent “ha ha ha ha” that bubbles slowly, merrily. “It is immensely self-celebratory,” he

adds. “You don’t need a big reason for it. We Americans especially deny ourselves, whereas I think the Europeans more readily embrace a bubbly, especially throughout a dinner.”

Bubbles pair well with every food, he points out—baked foods, fried foods, spicy foods. In his new book, “How to Drink Like a Billionaire: Mastering Wine with Joie de Vivre,” he lists some eyebrow-raising pairings, like the high-brow-lowbrow marriage of a prestige cuvée, the grand dame of Champagnes, with French fries. Or how about Australian sparkling shiraz with Froot Loops?

See Bubbles on **D7**

