



Eamon Rockey, Compose, New York

Eamon Rockey, a former bartender and captain at New York's acclaimed Eleven Madison Park, has taken his expertise downtown to fashion a 600+ selection wine list with a spirited cocktail program to match. Champagne is a passion of Rockey's, and he's chosen to stack the list with just under 40 selections that pledge allegiance to the [grower-producer](#). He plays a lot with Champagne to compliment the restaurant's

tasting menu and is adamant about trying to get diners to think about Champagne like they would a still wine. "It breaks my heart when people ask me whether they should have wine or Champagne," he says. "I'm trying to prove that there's no difference."

If money was no object, what would you drink off your list and why?>

"I believe that sparkling wine expresses itself particularly well in large format. It is a rare treat to open a nice big bottle of Champagne with food and friends, and there are few better suited than Henri Billiot's Grand Cru 2002 (\$280) in magnum. Though certainly still a young bottle, with a bit of air and interest, its Pinot-heavy cepage conveys a focus, structure and elegance too rarely experienced by even the most well-versed aficionado."

What would you drink if you were on a budget?

"Bernard Remy Carte Blanche (\$66) is truly a bang for the buck; there is no reason that grower-producer Champagne as mineral-driven and vivacious shouldn't be available to everyone!"