



MARCH 2025

Balthazar Ltd
Waterditch House
Waterditch Road
Bransgore
Christchurch BH23 8JX

Champagne

There are a lot of good champagnes out there that people just overlook because they have never heard of them. Lamiable is definitely one of those, and Ayala is to a lesser extent. There is also a peculiar trait, where people think you are being mean if you serve an “unknown” champagne. These champagnes (fortunately) may not command the premiums that the *Grand Marques* can, but that isn’t a reflection of quality, more a question of advertising budgets!



Lamiable Brut, Grand Cru

£29.99

My house fizz that I first came across over 30 years ago. A Grand Cru, meaning no Pinot Meunier is allowed; 60% Pinot Noir, 40% Chardonnay. While I do carry small quantities of their other cuvées and vintage wines, this is the mainstay. Can be aged for a few years too.

Ayala Brut Majeur (37.5cl)

£18.95

My wife does like a half bottle from time to time, and alas, Lamiable no longer seem to bottle in halves. So Ayala it is. Owned by Bollinger, but at a more affordable price. Different to the Lamiable in that it is 55% Chardonnay, 30% Pinot Noir and only 15% Pinot Meunier