

By Susan E. Poppiti, Esquire

# Here's Lookin' at You

**C**hampagne is synonymous with celebration. And, no one sips it better than the icons of Hollywood's Golden Age. Follow their lead and ring in the New Year with some Champagne cocktails from the silver screen.

## Kir Royale

*The Philadelphia Story* (1940)

Starring Katharine Hepburn and James Stewart

This cocktail of blackcurrant liqueur and bubbly is a festive and fruity way to commence a celebration. Pour 10 ml of Crème de Cassis into a Champagne flute, then fill slowly with chilled dry Champagne. (Try the very fine Diebolt-Vallois Blanc de Blancs Brut for this cocktail.)

## Champagne Cocktail

*Casablanca* (1942)

Starring Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart

Douse a white sugar cube in Angostura bitters and place into a Champagne flute. Add 24 ml of brandy, then gently top up with dry Champagne. I recently paired this cocktail with a flan as a dessert course. The bitters provided an aromatic counterbalance to the sweet custard, and the cocktail's amber color was quite lovely. (The most famous of Champagnes — a Veuve Clicquot Brut — is an excellent choice for this drink.)

## Bellini

*Every Day's a Holiday* (1937)

Starring Mae West

For this cheerful brunch cocktail, make sure that your ingredients are well chilled. Half fill a Champagne flute with fresh peach juice, top up with dry Champagne and stir. Serve chilled.

## Buck's Fizz

*Top Hat* (1935)

Starring Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire

As with the Bellini, make sure that your ingredients are well chilled. Half fill a Champagne flute with dry Champagne. Top up with fresh orange juice and stir gently. To make a Mimosa, add a dash of Grand Marnier.

## Egg Nog

*The Man Who Came to Dinner* (1941)

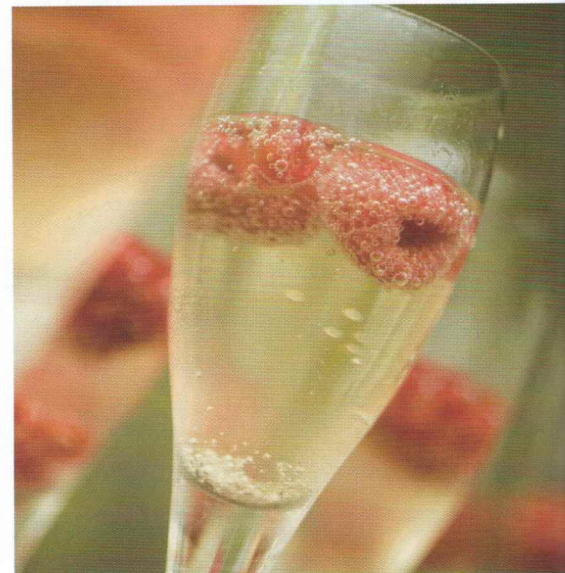
Starring Monty Woolley and Bette Davis

While there is no Champagne in this drink, what would a holiday soirée be without egg nog? Pour 30 ml of brandy, 30 ml of dark rum, one egg, and one teaspoon of sugar into a cocktail shaker filled with ice and shake sharply. Strain into a rocks glass. Top up with milk and stir. Sprinkle with freshly grated nutmeg.

## NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

## Shirley Temple & Roy Rogers

Pour ginger ale (or 7-Up) into a highball glass filled with ice. Add grenadine to taste and stir. Garnish with a Maraschino cherry. For a Roy Rogers, substitute Coca-cola for the ginger ale.



## HOLLY-DAY TRIVIA

Now that I have whetted your thirst, I offer a trivia contest. One of my favorite actresses, Bette Davis, enjoyed her fair share of cocktails. The first reader to correctly identify the cocktail that The Queen of the Silver Screen sipped in each of the below films will receive a bottle of bubbly to enjoy over the holidays.

*All About Eve*

(Hint: a variation of a martini.)

*Dark Victory*

(Hint: the Angostura bitters create a rosy color.)

*Now, Voyager*

(Hint: the plot is quite different from the drink's name.)