

UPSCALE *Living*

The Best of Luxury Living

True Champagne Dames

You need to order at least three cases of Champagne for March to celebrate Mother's Day and International Women's Day. The first case should contain Pommery, Laurent-Perrier, Henriot, Bollinger, and Veuve Clicquot because women made them famous. The second case should represent modern female-led houses like AR Lenoble, Drappier, Paillard, Krug, Tarlat, and Taittinger, and the third case should comprise bubbly made by modern female cellar masters like Caroline Latrive (Ayala), Carine Bailleul (de Castelnaud), Celine Gasco (Charles Lafitte), Sandrine Logette-Jardin (Duval-Leroy), Severine Frerson (Perrier-Jouët) and Nathalie Laplaige (Joseph Perrier).

Women are Champagne...forget the monks. Women are the mothers of Champagne. It has been women who made Champagne what it is. The UK imported 29 million bottles last year. Champagne shipped 320 million, and most bear a woman's touch.



Born in 1899, Elisabeth "Lily" Law de Lauriston-Boubers married Jacques Bollinger—the grandson of Maison's founder Joseph Jacob Bollinger. A World War 11 widow, she is the most quoted of Champagne's grand dames: "I drink Champagne when I'm happy and when I'm sad. Sometimes I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company, I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I'm not hungry and drink it when I am. Otherwise, I never touch it—unless I'm thirsty."