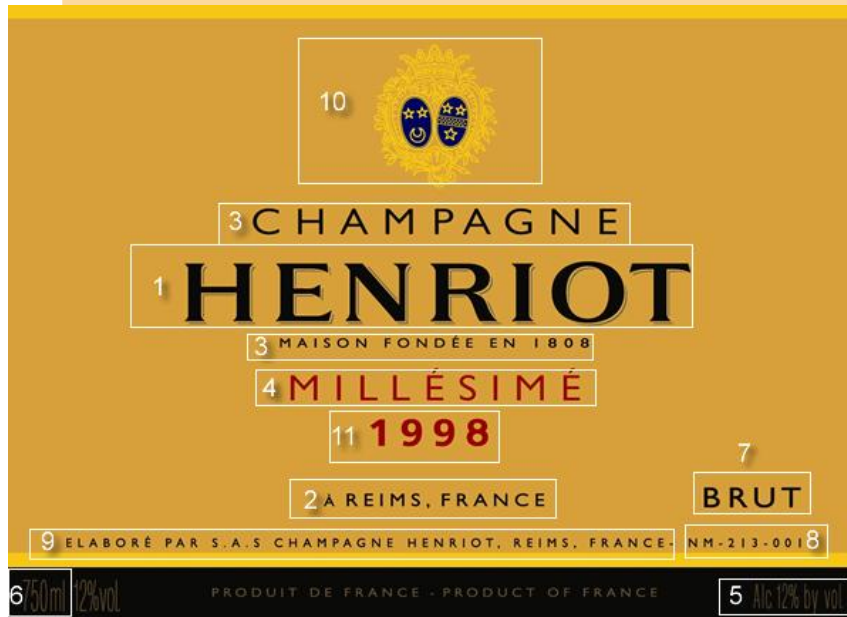


How to Read a Champagne Label



1. Champagne producer
2. Place
3. Appellation
4. Blend
5. Alcohol by volume
6. Bottle contents
7. Sugar content
8. No. and code of bottler
9. Produced by Company, place, country
10. Registered trademark and design
11. Vintage

(Order and contents may vary)

In the small print, you may see a number prefaced by two letters. It tells you who bottled the champagne. The most common letters codes are:

- **Négociant-manipulants (NM)** are large organizations which would typically buy or harvest large quantities of grapes and process them in their cellars into Champagne. A “Négociant” is someone who is negotiating. “Manipulant” means “Manipulating”
- **Récoltant-manipulants (RM)** are smaller groups of growers who make and sell their own wine. “Récoltant” means “harvester”. If you ever go to the Champagne region, you will see quite a few “récoltant-manipulants” in each small city and even village. Typically, it is not possible to visit unless you set up an appointment in advance.
- **Récoltant-coopérateurs (RC)** This wine producers would use the service of a cooperative to process the grapes, but he would get the end result back to sell it to his own clients.
- **Co-opératives-manipulants (CM)** are the co-operatives, where growers bring their harvest. The co-operative would press and mature the champagne in its own cellar.
- **Marque-auxiliaire (MA)** – literally auxiliary mark- that term describes champagne that was produced on the behalf of a reseller who is going to put his own label on the bottle

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