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The best British drinks for summer garden party



Summer in a glass, courtesy of brilliant wines, beers, spirits and softies chosen by Susy Atkins CREDIT: HAARALA HAMILTON

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There's a great buzz around fine British drink-makers – never before have we seen so many new brewers, craft distillers and cider, perry and juice producers starting up. British wineries, too, are on a roll, gaining international recognition. Here's a selection of the best of Britain in a glass.

Pontoon Cocktails The Wingfield British Gin Aperitif, London harveynichols.com, £37 for 70cl

A new take on a summer aperitif, rather wonderfully named after Major Walter Clopton Wingfield who pioneered lawn tennis in the 1870s. Herbal and slightly sweet with a cucumber hint, it mixes well with sparkling water, a slice of pink grapefruit and ice.

Sibling Gin, Cheltenham [Masters of Malt](http://MastersofMalt), £40 for 70cl or £39.05

A thoroughly modern gin (made by two sisters and two brothers, the eldest just 24), with a smooth, rich, fruity and vanilla-tinged flavour. They suggest one part gin to two parts light tonic, garnished with a twist of orange peel or sliced blueberries on a cocktail stick.

Luscombe Damascene Rose Bubbly, Devon, luscombe.co.uk, £20.28 (box of 12 x 270ml)

A prettily packaged, grown-up soft drink made with muscat grape juice, rosewater and orange blossom water. Scented, softly sparkling and a refreshing change from the usual non-alcoholic options.

XXXCamel Valley Classic Cuvée 2013, Cornwall Marks & Spencer, £28

An award-winning, fine vintage sparkler, from one of England's best wineries. Expect tongue-tingling freshness, a citrus edge and richer, toasty layer.

Waitrose The Limes Selection English Dry White 2014, Surrey [also from telegraphwine.co.uk](http://telegraphwine.co.uk) £8.99

Aromatic, juicy, dry English white, more affordable than most. It's made from seyval blanc grapes, and delivers racy lime and green apple fruit.

Bath Ales Gem Amber Ale bathales.com, £19 (8 x 500ml bottles)

Made with challenger and first gold hops, this tastes deliciously mellow and malty, with a long, satisfying flavour of toasted cereals and a hint of bitterness.