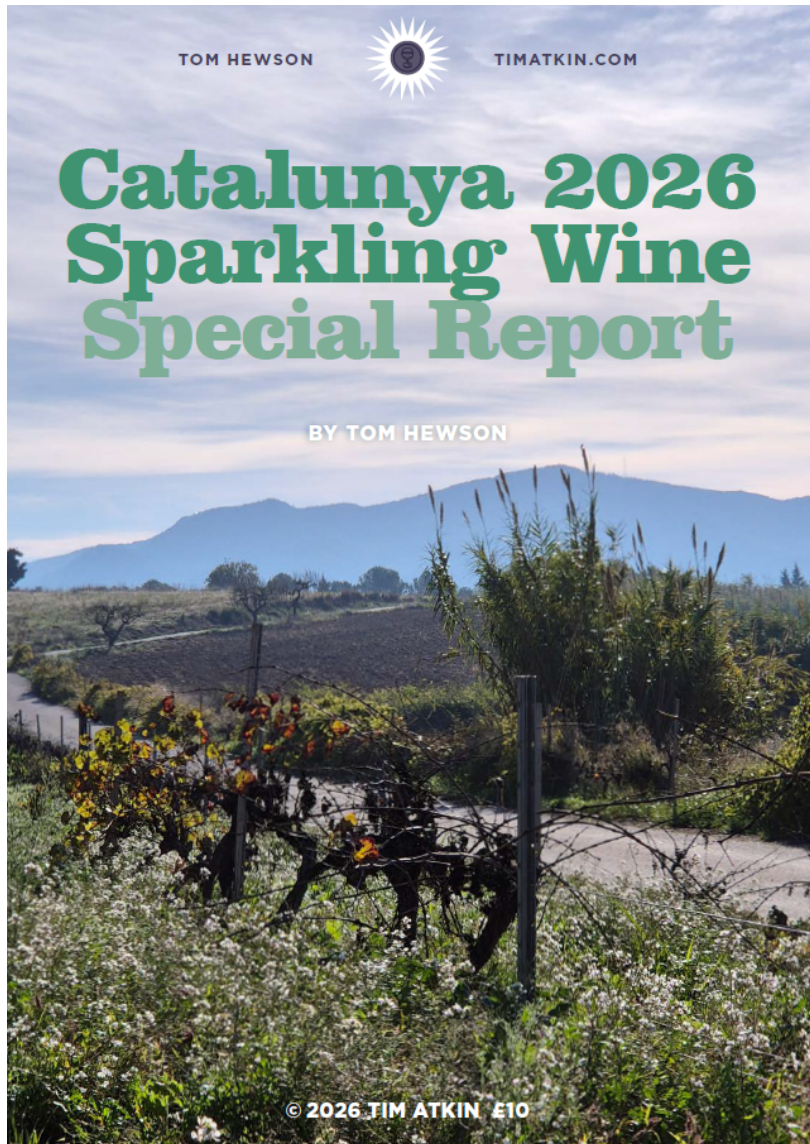


Tim Atkin

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Who is Tim Atkin?

Tim Atkin is an award-winning wine writer and Master of Wine with 38 years of experience in the industry. He writes in a number of publications including Harpers, Decanter, The World of Fine Wine and The Drinks Business. He is recognized as one of the Three Men of Wine and serves as co-chair of the International Wine Challenge, the most rigorous blind tasting competition in the world.

Read more information about him at [his website](#).

U MES U AT CATALUNYA SPARKLING WINE 2026 by TOM HEWSON

Tom Hewson is the author of Catalunya Sparkling Wine Report 2026 by Tim Atkin website.

He is a writer and sparkling wine enthusiast, Champagne correspondent for Decanter magazine and Decanter Premium, and author of Special Reports (about Champagne, English sparkling wine and sparkling wine) for Tim Atkin Master of Wine and other publications.

You can read the whole report if you buy it at the following [link](#).



AWARDED AS...

**Special Award - Cava DO
Rara Avis Territ Brut Nature Reserva 2021**

Although one of Cava's star producers has impressed lately with some of the region's best wines to focus on Pinot Noir, this year the Xarel-lo of 'Territ' really shone. Oak is not always a natural partner for the grape, but here it is perfectly-judged, with a short passage in 300l barrels lending a very subtle, sympathetic lining of nutty, sweet-spice tones and a gentle textural breadth that seems to suit this fruit, grown on a single site in Font-rubi. A Xarel-lo that retains plenty of the variety's punch and clarity, but shown in a different light.

U MES U CAVAS POINTS ON THE REPORT

Entry Level - 15€ and under

92

U Mes U, Cygnus Sador Brut Nature Reserva 2022

Cava de Guarda Superior

From the drought-affected 2022 vintage this shows a lovely purity and focus, juicy green pear fruit, subtle yellow grapefruit bitters, a little brown pastry lees ageing and slightly chappy reductive side but not veggie. There's some delicacy and lift here. Brilliant value. 2026-2027

91

U Mes U, Cygnus Albireo NV

Cava de Guarda Superior

Xarel-lo, Macabeo, Parellada. Refined and impressive at entry-level, this is friendly in style with some white peach, sweet apple and crisp citrus, even offering a touch of nougat-like lees ageing richness before a gentle, balanced palate where Xarel-lo briskness keeps things feeling energetic. Everything is working together here – neat, elegant and fine. 2026-2025

90

U Mes U, Cygnus Deneb 2021

Cava de Guarda Superior

All Xarel-lo and made without sulphites, this bottling shows a slightly more evolved, dried apple and nutty nose, despite its relatively youthful disgorgement. The palate is briny and energetic, driven by a punchy cut of bitter lemon that brings more thrust and assertiveness than the producer's other wines, though it stops short of feeling extracted or heavy. A little pokey and saline, it's a lively, food-friendly style that will cut cleanly through richer dishes. All Xarel-lo. 2026-2026

Premium Level - 15€ and 26€

94

U Mes U, Territ Brut Nature Reserva 2021

Cava de Guarda Superior

All Xarel-lo, fermented in oak. It's not always an easy marriage, but this refined, engaging Cava is U mes U's finest this year and a model for how to integrate the grape variety with oak by adding a delicious, subtle fresh nut and brown bread layer to the fruit without jarring creamy or sweet woodiness. Fresh clementine, apple tart and brown pastry flavours are bright, persistent and energised, but not aggressive – this captures all of Xarel-lo's driving personality and elevates it. 2026-2029

92

U Mes U, Larus 2021

Cava de Guarda Superior

A blend of Pinot Noir and Xarel-lo. There's such a refined sensibility in a blend that might not be an obvious one but unquestionably works. There's a pretty, gently creamy raspberry and apricot Pinot Noir suppleness with quite a lot of juicy volume up front before a lovely cut of bitter lemon Xarel-lo. The harvest's intensity and sense of extract is perhaps at play here, with this vintage a little more structured and grippy than previous editions, but it's still a fine Cava with plenty of interest. 2026-2027

Premium + - 26€ and 59€

93

U Mes U, Caelus Gran Reserva 2016

Cava de Guarda Superior

From a standout vintage in Penedès, this Pinot Noir is amongst the most impressive single variety sparkling examples in the region. The nose opens with some mature, spicy tones of sage and caraway, before roasted apples and brown bread flavours which are certainly developed, but far from tired. There's concentration and substance of red fruit on the palate, with a chewy texture and nicely pitched ripeness that avoids any sense of heaviness or fat. Gastronomic, mature and layered Cava that is a notch more refined than previous releases. 2026-2028

Rosé

91

U Mes U, Ardea Pinot Noir Rosé NV

Cava de Guarda Superior

U Mes U grow a relatively large amount of Pinot Noir, and show plenty of aptitude for it with this delicately-handled wine, with its creamy raspberry, redcurrant and pear fruit framed in a youthful, pretty style. The Catalan heat is there in some juicy build and bitter redcurrant seed, but the finish is nicely smoothed-out too, with a gentle dosage well tucked-in. Straightforward and attractive. 2026-2026