

GOOD SPIRITS

Maria Hunt, author of *The Bubbly Bar* (Clarkson Potter, \$16.99) recommends lowering the bar when it comes to deeming occasions champagne—or sparkling wine—worthy. Elegant champagne toasts may be a favorite tradition when it comes to launching certain holiday festivities, but, says Hunt, “Everything’s better with bubbly—don’t wait for an occasion; make an occasion!”



Among the helpful assortment of entertaining tips in the book, Hunt, a San Diego-based food and wine writer, includes a popcorn recipe and cocktail directions with a tip about celebrating movie night at home. The slim volume also contains an excellent reference of affordable selections with sparkling wine, highlighted by country and cost. If you have a question or just want to keep up with the international traveler's latest discoveries (tough work, but someone has to do it!), check out her Web site and blog at thebubblygirl.com.

—D.P.