

It's All About The Bling - Twelve Absurdly Expensive Liquid Gift Ideas



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I write about wine and spirits.

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[Jean Fillioux Tres Vieux Grande Champagne Cognac \\$130](#)



It's a secret shared by a few connoisseurs that the best, or certainly the most interesting and unique, Cognac comes not from the big name houses but smaller, privately held firms making this golden spirit in quantities tiny compared to their large, commercial counterparts.

A winning example is this beauty from Jean Fillioux. Dark gold in color, shot through with hints of amber and orange, its hugely powerful nose assaults the senses with images of caramel, vanilla and pine resin.

Lighter and more vibrant than most Cognac. Bone dry yet with a creamy, honeyed texture, leathery with hints of violets and candied orange peel. Has that slightly bitter tang I associate with Frank Cooper's Vintage Coarse Cut Oxford Marmalade, and a finish that lingers in the memory long after it's disappeared from the tongue.