

### Coconut Telegraph

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#### Deadline

for the Coconut  
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### Before You Pop Your Cork...

Did you know that  
Champagne corks can fly  
at 50 mph?

It's impossible to  
pinpoint just how much  
that tension-bursting  
"pop!" adds to the enjoy-  
ment of a bottle of Cham-  
pagne, but human ingenu-  
ity has found ways to  
measure the speed at  
which a cork shoots from  
its mooring.

In 2008, a German  
scientist calculated that  
the average speed of a  
Champagne cork is just  
under 25 mph, though  
they also noted that 62  
mph could be reached  
under the right condi-  
tions. Other sources,  
including the American  
Academy of Ophthalmol-  
ogy, have noted that  
champagne corks can  
easily go flying at around

50 mph.

This high-speed  
bedazzlement is the  
result of the way Cham-  
pagne (and all sparkling  
wine) is created. Since  
that magical late 17th-  
century day when Dom  
Perignon discovered the  
recipe — and likely even  
before that — the bever-  
age has been made by  
adding yeast and sugar to  
an existing base of wine.  
Sealed tight in a bottle,  
this mixture undergoes a  
second fermentation that  
produces its signature  
carbon dioxide bubbles.

That second fermen-  
tation swells internal  
pressure to 90 pounds per  
square inch — approxi-  
mately three times the  
level of an inflated car  
tire. Upon finally achiev-  
ing release when the

bottle's wire is unwrapped  
and its stopper nudged,  
the pent-up carbon diox-  
ide not only ejects the  
cork at parkway-level  
speeds, but also gener-  
ates supersonic shock  
waves that resemble  
those unleashed by rock-  
ets and jets!

Of course, such a  
violently ejected projectile  
needs to be handled care-  
fully; while it's used to  
comic effect in movies, a  
poorly aimed cork can  
shatter glass and result in  
ghastly injuries like a split  
eyeball or detached retina.

Drinkers will want to  
follow safe-opening guide-  
lines that include chilling  
the sparkling wine to  
reduce pressure, aiming  
away from the body, and  
gripping the cork while  
twisting the bottle.

**2024**

BE READY, AS IT IS TIME FOR CELEBRATION,  
NEW YEAR BRINGS  
NEW HOPES AND ASPIRATION,  
HAVE A FANTASTIC YEAR FILLED WITH  
PEACE AND HEALTH,  
WITH LOTS OF LOVE AND LOADS OF WEALTH.  
WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DENISE & THE STAFF OF THE  
COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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to Islamorada...

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(Add \$8 shipping per shirt if you want it mailed to you, and  
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