

got water?

Jim Goldwasser, AP Microeconomics teacher and sparkling water enthusiast, blind-reviews and guesses various brands of sparkling water

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1. KLARBRUNN

GUESS: BUBLY

This drink tastes like it is slightly lemon flavored. It has a better mouthfeel [than the La Croix], but it is more carbonated. This is carbonic acid. This isn't just CO₂ in water; the CO₂ and water have become one.

2. BUBLY

GUESS: LA CROIX

It's refreshing. The carbonation is the appropriate amount. The bubbles were smaller, if you will, than the ones in [the La Croix]. It has higher notes and is more limey. I don't taste any lemon — maybe it's the lime residual in my mouth.

3. LA CROIX

GUESS: KLARBRUNN

This one has a subtle lime flavor, but it is still definitely lime. I like the mouthfeel of it. I would say each of [the first three brands] — the canned, regular sparkling water that I've become accustomed to — is four out of five stars.

4. PERRIER

GUESS: SAN PELLEGRINO

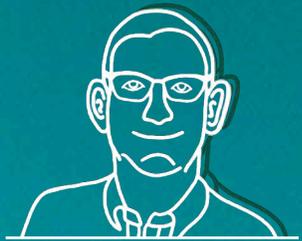
It's horrible. It's carbonated, [but] it needs more taste. It has very little taste outside of the carbonation; [however], I like the bubbles. I would give the Perrier two stars. I would drink it if I were thirsty, but I wouldn't go out and buy it myself.

5. SAN PELLEGRINO

GUESS: PERRIER

This is horrible, too. It says there is lemon and lemon zest, but [there isn't] really any. It's much more — well, it tastes more mineral-y. I'd rather drink from the fountain than this because it's so mineral-y. I don't like that. It's one star.

photo by sunny lu; art by katie shaw



FINAL THOUGHTS

HOW DID I DO?

HORRIBLY. I GOT THEM ALL WRONG. I LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT. I probably drink 12 cans of sparkling water every day, if not more. There was a time in my life when I was drinking 12 Coca-Colas a day. Then I got huge. I stopped that because it was like drinking a pound of sugar per day just for the carbonation. I wouldn't buy [the Perrier or San Pellegrino] because I need more flavor in my water, so it feels like I'm drinking soda — even if I'm only drinking fizzy water. I would buy the least expensive out of [the La Croix, Bubly and Klarbrunn]. To me, it's perfectly elastic.

