



**PASS THE BOLLY!**

**Pierpaolo Petrassi**, Head of Buying, Beers, Wines, Spirits at Waitrose picks his top five Champagnes and fizz

“Recently, Prosecco has driven the growth in sparkling wine. While Champagne is more serious and drier in style, Prosecco is fruity, informal and well-priced versus Champagne. English sparkling wine has improved in quality over the last decade. We are proud to have supported this home-grown industry since the 1990s.”



**BOLLINGER** Special Cuvée **£40**. Deserves its reputation as one of the great Champagnes – Eddy and Patsy obviously agree!



**SAN LEO** Prosecco **£10.49**. Probably the best example on the market ★★★★★



**LECKFORD ESTATE** Brut **£29.99**. We are incredibly proud of our own, home-grown premium English fizz ★★★★★



**WAITROSE** in partnership with Castillo Perellada Cava **£9.49**. We've worked with this producer for many years – a brilliant example and superb value for money ★★★★★



**JANSZ** Premium Cuvée NV **£16.99**. Among the best sparkling wines produced in the Southern Hemisphere

**CARRIE MURRAY (LEFT)**: FINERY AKERMAN STRIPE BELTED DRESS; SELECTED FEMME DIMMER ABSTRACT JACKET; STEVE MADDEN VENDETTA BLOCK SANDAL; JAEGER BRIGHT YELLOW CLUTCH BAG; JOHN LEWIS SEEDBEAD CUFF  
**SAM YETUNDE (CENTRE)**: PURE COLLECTION CAPRI TROUSER; SELFISH MOTHER (HUMAN) T-SHIRT; MINIMUM KARA LEATHER JACKET; JOHN LEWIS BEAD STATEMENT NECKLACE (MULTI); TED BAKER LORNO BLOCK HEEL SANDAL; DAY BIRGER ET MIKKELSEN GREEN CLUTCH BAG  
**FRANCES HAWKES (RIGHT)**: FINERY UTILITY JUMPSUIT; SOMERSET BY ALICE TEMPERLEY COCO LACE CROP TOP; KURT GEIGER LEOPARD HOLLYWOOD HEELS; FINESSE CLIP ON EARRINGS; SUSAN CAPLAN (VINTAGE) GOLD CHOKER; MISS KG JEWEL BOX CLUTCH BAG



**Carrie Murray**, Customer Support, JL Birmingham  
**Style ID:** Designer/vintage mix  
**Fashion formula:** Throw it together!  
**Beauty look:** Relaxed  
**Style icons:** Kate Moss and Angelina Jolie  
**Favourite JL label:** Finery – it always looks good on

PHOTOS: DARRIN BELL; STYLING: SOPHIE NEWEY & LUCY KNIGHT; NAILS BY ANDREA WALKER (@BEAUTY) USING OPI MAKEUP; LAURA MAY BALL (@BOBBI BROWN); SOPHIE CHILTON (@DOR) MICHELLE HOLMES (@ESTEE LAUDER); HAIR: THARANJEET BANSAL USING GHD



# Looking fabulous, Darling!

Three JL Birmingham Partners are given the Personal Stylist treatment



**Frances Hawkes**, Women's Accessories, JL Birmingham  
**Style ID:** Androgynous  
**Fashion formula:** Masculine and comfortable. Always Chelsea boots!  
**Beauty look:** Pale and interesting  
**Style icons:** Patti Smith, David Bowie  
**Favourite JL label:** Finery – it's all lovely



**Sam Yetunde**, Womenswear, JL Birmingham  
**Style ID:** Sporty, Vintage, Outrageous  
**Fashion formula:** Versatility  
**Beauty look:** Polished  
**Style icon:** Rihanna – her look is sexy but classy  
**Favourite JL label:** Jaeger, for its new direction and the bright orange



## 'John Lewis is a strong competitor in fashion'

Big names and big new brands: JL Personal Stylist Sophie Newey – who styled the three Partners for our shoot – talks to Kirsty Bennett

Whose style do John Lewis Birmingham's customers most want to emulate? "Kate's!" says Sophie Newey, who works as a Personal Stylist in the branch. But are we talking about Duchess Kate Middleton, or fashion royalty Kate Moss? The answer, adds Sophie, is both. Because that's the point about John Lewis' fashion offer: its mix of contemporary and classic brands means it can appeal to a large variety of customers. The Birmingham branch's extensive fashion floor, with the business's first and largest loved&found department, as well as brands such as Selected Femme and Finery, is a fine example of this in practice.

Sophie joined the styling team at the branch – from a fashion role at Selfridges – when it opened last September. "I had worked in women's fashion roles for lots of different companies before joining John Lewis – mostly in designer fashion," she says. "I was immediately impressed with some of the labels we stock, particularly in loved&found, as they're brands you might not have associated with John Lewis with in the past."

Sophie, alongside Personal Stylist Lucy Knight, styled the Partner models for this week's *Absolutely Fabulous*-themed fashion shoot (see left). "We've got some very cool, younger brands that have a premium look, but are affordable. This is what we aimed to showcase in the shoot." John Lewis Birmingham includes a Denim Wardrobe by Trilogy space, which, with high-profile brands such as Paige and J Brand, helps to attract more shoppers. "Those are brands that are very popular with celebrities, so naturally they help us attract a different type of customer," says Sophie. "In denim, especially, we're now a strong competitor in Birmingham."

Sophie is predominantly a stylist in womenswear, but she's not limited to this area. "My youngest customer was seven years old, and I also style men because I have experience in this from my previous roles. For me, it's about understanding what suits a person and styling them whatever their age or sex. It's a lot of fun." Does Sophie feel a pressure to look stylish? "I do! But it's fun to be adventurous and to experiment with fashion." 📌