



What to drink with a TV dinner? publication date: Jun 21, 2009

|
author/source: Fiona Beckett

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This month's issue of [Observer Food Monthly](#) has a special on TV dinners featuring celebrities talking about their favourite snacks. Very few beverages are mentioned so I thought I'd suggest a few pairings ;-)

Indian takeaway

Amanda Holden is pictured eating pasta with pesto but actually says her regular TV supper is an Indian takeaway. Lager would be the obvious bevvy of choice for most but personally I'd go for an IPA (India Pale Ale) or a strong fruity rosé

Spag bol

A bit of a messy TV snack from Observer restaurant critic Jay Rayner but who wouldn't be tempted by Angela Hartnett's 3-4 hour [ragu](#) which deserves a good bottle. Like a Chianti Classico riserva

Fish fingers

Mentioned by novelist Julie Myerson who also admits to enjoying a glass of Sauvignon Blanc. They'd rub along fine together but I must confess to a secret vice which is that I love fish fingers and champagne. Cava at a pinch.

Tapas

Newsreader Mark Austin says he likes tapas and a glass of wine (unspecified though I suspect it might be a Rioja). He should try a well-chilled glass of fino or manzanilla sherry

Cheese on toast

We also don't know what wine his colleague Julie Etchingham drinks with her cheese on toast made with "strong cheddar, always with Worcestershire sauce" Could quaff a Cabernet but I'd personally be reaching for a bottle of Timothy Taylor Landlord.

Home-made burgers

The fondly remembered childhood treat of X Factor presenter Dermot O'Leary. Adults should try them with a good bottle of Bordeaux: as fine a match with a burger as a steak - provided you don't overdo the relish.

Chips

Perfect TV food, according to the BBC's Alan Yentob - and he should know. Personally I think this is beer food again. Or a mug of builder's tea, which would certainly be a good match for his other favoured snack, fried-egg sandwiches . . .

Fish pie

Mentioned by Property Ladder's Sarah Beeny. Her version, which includes smoked haddock and a cheesy sauce, is quite rich which would make me reach for a fairly full-bodied (but not ridiculously oaky) Chardonnay.



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