

Wine Spectator Insider

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KNOCKOUT REDS AND SOPHISTICATED SPARKLERS PERVADE THIS WEEK'S *WINE SPECTATOR INSIDER*, with world-class offerings from Australia, California, France and Italy. This is a report of the most exciting wines our editors have discovered in the tasting room in recent weeks.

The latest releases of Penfolds Grange and Tuscany's Masseto take top honors here. Sonoma Pinot Noir from Dehlinger, DuMol and Patz & Hall display depth and richness. France comes on strong with standout Champagnes from Deutz and Louis Roederer, as well as Rhône stunners from Les Vins de Vienne. Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.

AUSTRALIA

KAESLER

Shiraz Barossa Valley Old Bastard 2013

93 points | \$180 | 25 cases imported | Red

Dark, dense and muscular, with a mouthful of blackberry, spice and espresso flavors, accented by a touch of candied ginger. Robust and intense, featuring flavors that persist on the finish, transmitting power and focus. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

SOS PROJECT

Shiraz-Viognier McLaren Vale Single Vineyard 2015

92 points | \$25 | 100 cases imported | Red

Fragrant and expressive, with a touch of dried apricot to the core of plum and black cherry. Details of Earl Grey tea, pepper and spice linger on the long finish, showing plenty of polish. Drink now through 2027.—*M.W.*

CLOUDBURST

Chardonnay Margaret River 2014

92 points | \$200 | NA cases made | White

Distinctive, with rich flavors and a smooth texture, this offers toasted hazelnut, honey, pear and Meyer lemon meringue notes that are intense and luxurious. The texture is creamy yet weightless, giving the wine an effortless elegance. Softly juicy, and very spicy on the long finish. Drink now through 2031.—*M.W.*

MOLLYDOOKER

Shiraz McLaren Vale Blue Eyed Boy 2015

91 points | \$49 | 5,000 cases imported | Red

Ripe and generous, with toasty cedar notes adding spicy accents of sarsaparilla and cinnamon to the jammy raspberry and candied cherry flavors. Drink now through 2027.—*M.W.*

CALIFORNIA

DEHLINGER

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley High Plains 2013

93 points | \$70 | 225 cases made | Red

A supple, graceful effort, with smooth tannins on entry. Gains depth and richness, offering perfumed cherry, wild berry and strawberry notes. Long and juicy on the finish. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

DUMOL

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Finn 2014

93 points | \$85 | 460 cases made | Red

Beautifully proportioned, with acidity, tannins and rich, juicy wild berry flavors working together. This baby needs time before it can run, but the signs are all there. A laser beam of a Pinot. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

LA FOLLETTE

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2014
92 points | \$42 | 409 cases made | Red

A seductive style, where creamy, mocha-scented oak adds cedar and vanilla hints to the pure, supple core of cherry and berry flavors. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

PATZ & HALL

Pinot Noir Napa Valley Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2014
92 points | \$75 | 1,056 cases made | Red

Presents a charming, supple mix of plum, black cherry, rose petal and raspberry, shaded by hints of baking spices and light cedary oak. Still a bit edgy, but should smooth out. Drink now.—*J.L.*

SIDURI

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2014
92 points | \$60 | 581 cases made | Red

Plump and sumptuous, with a rich core of plum, cherry, blackberry and licorice flavors, retaining juiciness and firming on the finish, where gravel and oak elements add backbone and dimension. Drink now.—*J.L.*

WHETSTONE

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Walala Vineyard 2014
92 points | \$85 | 300 cases made | Red

Balances oak and rich fruit, with ample plum, blueberry and blackberry flavors supported by smoky, toasty oak. A compelling mix of fruit and wood, presented in a graceful style. Drink now.—*J.L.*

FRANCE Champagne

MOUSSÉ FILS

Brut Rosé Champagne Tradition NV
92 points | \$55 | 50 cases imported | Sparkling

Fragrant, with wild strawberry and spice notes, this creamy rosé Champagne is framed by fresh acidity and a minerally underpinning. Clean-cut on the finish, featuring lingering hints of licorice, smoke and blood orange zest. Drink now through 2020.—*A.N.*

LOUIS ROEDERER

Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne 2010
92 points | \$86 | 135 cases imported | Sparkling

A mouthwatering Champagne that's well-meshed and elegant, setting expressive notes of golden raisin, pineapple pâte de fruit, slivered almond and pickled ginger on a finely detailed, satiny texture. Smoky finish. Drink now through 2026.—*A.N.*

J.L. VERGNON

Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Eloquence NV
92 points | \$50 | 1,000 cases made | Sparkling

Firm acidity structures this mouthwatering Champagne, yet there's a fine, lacy quality to the mousse that softens the overall impression, carrying flavors of pear tart, star anise, chalk and fresh ginger. A rich hint of marzipan lingers on the finish. Disgorged December 2015. Drink now through 2021.—*A.N.*

COLLET

Brut Champagne Art Deco NV
91 points | \$49 | 2,500 cases imported | Sparkling

This is clean-cut and linear, lightly chalky in texture, with a balanced palate of poached apple, black raspberry, biscuit and candied lemon zest. Fresh. Drink now through 2019.—*A.N.*

JACQUART

Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne 2009
91 points | \$55 | 200 cases imported | Sparkling

A smoky mineral note underscores flavors of poached apple, lightly toasted brioche, lemon curd and dried apricot in this creamy Champagne. Broad on the palate and firm, with a lively, spiced finish. Drink now through 2021.—*A.N.*

JACQUES LASSAIGNE

Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Les Vignes de Montgueux NV
91 points | \$60 | 2,900 cases made | Sparkling

This is abundantly spiced, offering an aromatic mixture of warm baking spices and flavors of poached quince, raw almond, pastry dough and lemon parfait, all set in a firm, lively frame. Subtle finish. Drink now through 2019.—*A.N.*

FRANCE Rhône

LES VINS DE VIENNE

Cornas Les Barcillants 2014
93 points | \$72 | 150 cases imported | Red

Shows ample richness for the vintage, with fleshy layers of steeped boysenberry, raspberry and plum fruit that roll through, underscored by a smoldering charcoal note and lifted through the finish by a bright bay leaf accent. Not shy with the toasty frame, but everything is in balance. Best from 2018 through 2029.—*J.M.*

LES VINS DE VIENNE

Côte-Rôtie Les Archevêques 2014
93 points | \$120 | 40 cases imported | Red

Sleek, with a racy iron edge that adds extra cut to lively damson plum, blood orange and bitter cherry fruit flavors. Light bay and olive accents add range on the finish, while an iron detail streams through. Displays gorgeous minerality. Best from 2017 through 2027.—*J.M.*

LES VINS DE VIENNE

St.-Péray Les Archevêques 2014
93 points | \$54 | 50 cases imported | White

Flashy, with warm brioche and almond cream aromas out front, followed by lush creamed melon, mango and peach flavors. Rounded and flattering in feel on the finish, but without being top-heavy. Deftly done. Drink now.—*J.M.*

PIERRE-JEAN VILLA

St.-Joseph Tildé 2013

93 points | \$70 | 25 cases imported | Red

Dark and vinous, with an inviting core of warm black currant and blackberry confiture notes backed by energetic bramble and singed bay details. Bright anise hints frame the finish, with all the elements carried by a bolt of graphite. Rock-solid. Best from 2018 through 2024.—*J.M.*

FERRATON PÈRE & FILS

Hermitage Les Miaux 2014

92 points | \$85 | 50 cases imported | Red

This has a lush feel, with steeped plum and blackberry fruit draped over a note of cocoa powder, all backed by smoldering charcoal and singed cedar notes on the finish. Shows solid depth. A little muted in terms of energy, but that's the vintage. Drink now through 2026.—*J.M.*

XAVIER GÉRARD

Condrieu Côte Châtillon 2014

92 points | \$56 | 40 cases imported | White

Rich and creamy, with apricot, quince and glazed peach flavors gliding through. A light ginger thread gives the finish energy, but this is languid in feel overall. Drink now.—*J.M.*

ALAIN VOGÉ

Cornas Les Chailles 2014

92 points | \$50 | 50 cases imported | Red

This has a lively core of raspberry and bitter cherry coulis flavors, backed by energetic bramble and bay notes. A snap of dried anise and a fine chalky spine enlivens the finish further. Should unfurl with moderate cellaring. Best from 2017 through 2025.—*J.M.*

ITALY

RENATO RATTI

Barolo Rocche dell' Annunziata 2012

93 points | \$100 | 85 cases imported | Red

Sweet cherry, menthol, tar, tobacco and earth flavors are well-proportioned in this supple red. A hint of orange peel comes into play as this lingers on the solid finish. Best from 2020 through 2033.—*B.S.*

SCHIAVENZA

Barolo Prapò 2012

93 points | \$65 | 100 cases imported | Red

A fruity style, this exhibits cherry, raspberry, licorice and floral flavors, shaded by tobacco and tea details. This is firm, yet fluid and balanced, with dusty tannins framing the long finish. Best from 2018 through 2035.—*B.S.*

LA SPINETTA

Barbaresco Gallina Vürsù 2013

93 points | \$125 | 950 cases made | Red

Aromatic, with rose, cherry and black currant notes matched to an elegant frame. Though firm and linear, the finish is long and detailed. Decant now for several hours or age for two to three years. Best from 2018 through 2030.—*B.S.*

CAMPO ALLA SUGHERA

Bolgheri Superiore Arnione 2013

92 points | \$76 | 1,700 cases made | Red

An opulent style, this delivers black cherry, plum, earth, cedar and spice flavors. Balanced and fresh, with vibrant acidity and dusty tannins extending the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2018 through 2027.—*B.S.*

COL D'ORCIA

Cabernet Sant'Antimo Olmaia 2012

92 points | \$77 | 1,250 cases made | Red

Black cherry and blackberry flavors are embraced by a layer of spicy, toasty oak, while tobacco, sage and leather notes add depth. Powerful and tannic, with a beefy finish. Give this time to absorb the oak. Best from 2018 through 2026.—*B.S.*

TENUTA MONTETI

Toscana 2011

92 points | \$45 | 450 cases imported | Red

This is smooth and racy, with a sleek structure driving the black cherry, blackberry, mineral and tobacco flavors. Tightly packed, featuring a long aftertaste of fruit, spice and mineral. Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2024.—*B.S.*

HOT WINES

These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors' most recent tastings, published exclusively in *Wine Spectator Insider*. They are high-scoring wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

PENFOLDS

Shiraz South Australia Grange 2012

97 points | \$850 | 357 cases imported | Red

Powerful and impressive, this seamless expression offers chai tea, sandalwood, dark chocolate, gingerbread and tobacco notes that complement the juicy black cherry fruit flavors at the core. Gains momentum on the finish. Intense but polished, revealing an air of weightlessness that lingers. Drink now through 2035. *From Australia.—M.W.*

MASSETO

Toscana 2013

96 points | \$700 | 325 cases imported | Red

Offers an inviting nose of black cherry, blackberry, vanilla, toast and tobacco, while sweet fruit and mineral flavors abound. Focused yet generous, with beautiful balance and a long, spice-tinged aftertaste. Needs aeration to come together. Decant if you must drink now, but better to wait. Merlot. Best from 2019 through 2030. *From Italy.—B.S.*

TORBRECK

RunRig Barossa Valley 2013

96 points | \$225 | 1,250 cases made | Red

Tremendous, opening up with chocolate and cream details, offering wild raspberry and cherry flavors that expand to detailed notes of nutmeg, licorice and dried rose petal. Lingers on a smooth, velvety body. Shiraz and Viognier. Drink now through 2030. *From Australia.—M.W.*

LUCIEN & ANDRÉ BRUNEL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Cailloux Cuvée Centenaire 2010

96 points | \$230 | 10 cases imported | Red

This beauty is just hitting its stride now, with a still-robust structure that is starting to show more velvety nuance while melding with the core of dark currant preserve, warmed fig and steeped plum flavors. Lots of cocoa and tobacco notes form the backdrop, and there's a long, smoldering feel to the finish. Another classic from a classic vintage. Best from 2017 through 2035. *From France.—J.M.*

PAUL HOBBS

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Katherine Lindsay Estate 2014

94 points | \$95 | 816 cases made | Red

Juicy and vibrant, with a zesty core of cherry and raspberry that's pure and direct, tilting toward the supple side while retaining a firm backbone. Drink now through 2024. *From California.—J.L.*

G.D. VAJRA

Barolo Ravera 2012

94 points | \$65 | 250 cases made | Red

Piercing scents of rose and cherry introduce this elegant red. Ample berry fruit is shaded by graphite, tobacco and tea flavors as this cruises to a long and fresh aftertaste. Best from 2019 through 2033. *From Italy.—B.S.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 16 tasters and tasting coordinators in two offices. They work together to review nearly 20,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our nine senior tasters count more than 140 years of tasting experience.

We always taste wine blind, in our offices in Napa and New York. This is your guarantee that our reviews are fair and objective, and that a wine's reputation or price does not influence its score. Each editor specializes in the wines of specific regions; initials appended to the review identify the taster of each wine. We score wines using the 100-point scale (see green box).

James Laube Senior editor, Napa
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: California

Harvey Steiman Editor at large, San Francisco
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1984. Tasting beat: Australia, Oregon, Washington

Kim Marcus Managing editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Argentina, Austria, Chile, Germany, Portugal

Thomas Matthews Executive editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Spain

Bruce Sanderson Senior editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1993. Tasting beat: Burgundy, Italy

James Molesworth Senior editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Bordeaux, Loire Valley, Rhône Valley, South Africa

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Australia, California, New Zealand

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Tim Fish Senior editor, Napa
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2001. Tasting beat: California

Gillian Sciaretta Tasting coordinator, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2012. Tasting beat: France

Wine Spectator's 100-Point Scale

95-100	Classic
90-94	Outstanding
85-89	Very good
80-84	Good
75-79	Mediocre
50-74	Not recommended