

Wine Spectator Insider

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A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

A GLOBE-SPANNING SELECTION OF STELLAR WINES distinguishes this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, with new releases from Australia, France, Germany, South Africa and Oregon. This is a report of the most exciting wines our editors have discovered in the tasting room in recent weeks.

Old-World achievers including the Rhône's M. Chapoutier and A. Clape, and Burgundy's Jean-Claude Boisset and Lucien Le Moine, deliver remarkable reds built for the cellar. Australia's Powell & Son and Torbreck present powerful expressions of Syrah. A decadent range of whites, from German Riesling to Oregon Chardonnay to South African Sémillon, rounds out this diverse selection. Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.

AUSTRALIA Syrah

POWELL & SON

Shiraz Eden Valley Loechel 2015

95 points | \$90 | 250 cases made | Red

Decadent, with date nut bread, dark chocolate and espresso flavors that are accented with sandalwood and mahogany aromas. The creamy and plush cherry and plum flavors are extremely generous and expressive on the epic finish. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

POWELL & SON

Shiraz Barossa Steinert Flaxman's 2015

94 points | \$625 | 200 cases made | Red

Rich and expressive, with a wild, fresh-turned earth aroma, mingling with smoke and sandalwood details and blackberry and white pepper flavors. Presents dense and fleshy tannins. The espresso-laced finish makes for a complex finale. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

GLAETZER

Shiraz Barossa Valley Amon-Ra 2015

93 points | \$110 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Rich and generous, with toasted walnut and sandalwood accents to the rich, velvety blackberry and plum flavors. Spicy and detailed on the long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

POWELL & SON

Shiraz Barossa Barossa & Eden Valley 2015

93 points | \$45 | 500 cases made | Red

Black walnut, dried porcino and nutmeg flavors are rich and compelling, set against a backdrop of plum and blackberry. Dark chocolate notes linger in the background on the long, firming finish. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

TORBRECK

The Struie Barossa 2014

93 points | \$50 | 350 cases imported | Red

Bold and dense, with spicy plum compote, fresh earth and black tea notes, showing a savory, teriyaki-accented edge. Robust and slightly chewy on the powerful finish. Shiraz. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

HENTLEY FARM

Shiraz Barossa Valley Clos Otto 2014

92 points | \$164 | 65 cases imported | Red

There's a warm, roasted accent to the herb and plum flavors, with cedar and toast details and dusty, gripping tannins. Finishes with a note of cinnamon-scented plum compote. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

HENTLEY FARM

Shiraz Barossa Valley The Creation 2014

92 points | \$165 | 50 cases imported | Red

Dense and brambly, featuring vanilla-laced blackberry and blueberry flavors at the core, with accents of herb, licorice, espresso and spice echoing in the background against a firm wall of tannins. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

FRANCE

Burgundy / Chambolle-Musigny

ALEX GAMBAL

Chambolle-Musigny Les Charmes 2014
94 points | \$135 | 33 cases imported | Red

A broad, dense red, with a layer of toasty oak and sweet spices over the core of cherry and currant fruit. A base of muscular tannins lends support. All the components are here, but this will require time to integrate. Best from 2022 through 2040.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE PERROT-MINOT

Chambolle-Musigny Combe d'Orveau 2014
94 points | \$350 | 10 cases imported | Red

An effusive style, bursting with sweet cherry, currant and strawberry flavors. Oak spice and mineral details add depth as this builds to a long, stony aftertaste. Shows good tension between the dry, chalky feel and the mouthwatering acidity. Best from 2021 through 2038.—*B.S.*

PATRICE RION

Chambolle-Musigny Vieilles Vignes 2014
93 points | \$75 | 25 cases imported | Red

Sleek and intense, this red evokes currant, cherry, floral and stone aromas and flavors, allied to a firm, steely structure. Leaves a chalky essence on the finish. Best from 2020 through 2035.—*B.S.*

AURÉLIEN VERDET

Chambolle-Musigny Les Condemennes 2014
93 points | \$80 | 30 cases imported | Red

Currant, violet, raspberry and mineral flavors are fused to the chalky backbone of this tensile red. Vibrant, if tight and compact for now on the finish, remaining long and persistent. The sweet fruit lingers. Best from 2020 through 2036.—*B.S.*

FRANCE

Rhône

M. CHAPOUTIER

Ermitage Le Méal 2014
95 points | \$320 | 12 cases imported | Red

Fleshy and broad in feel, with mulberry and blackberry fruit showing a steeped edge, accented by hints of sage, anise and bramble. Reveals a light loamy echo through the finish, which will need some time to unwind fully. Best from 2018 through 2031.—*J.M.*

M. CHAPOUTIER

Ermitage Le Pavillon 2014
95 points | \$425 | 26 cases imported | Red

Juicy and energetic, with lots of raspberry, blackberry and boysenberry confiture notes, inlaid with briary grip. Hints of sage, mint and tobacco fill in throughout, while a flash of iron enlivens the finish. Best from 2018 through 2030.—*J.M.*

M. CHAPOUTIER

Ermitage Les Greffieux 2014
94 points | \$180 | 10 cases imported | Red

Dense for the vintage, but with good restraint, as the core of lightly mulled plum, blackberry and black currant fruit rolls along, flecked with dried anise and mint notes. Shows a licorice root underpinning on the finish, with a frank loamy accent. Best from 2018 through 2030.—*J.M.*

M. CHAPOUTIER

Côte-Rôtie La Mordorée 2014
93 points | \$180 | 30 cases imported | Red

Sleek and racy in feel, as black currant, plum and bitter cherry notes race through, inlaid with white pepper and sage details. Presents a flash of iron through the finish. Best from 2019 through 2029.—*J.M.*

A. CLAPE

Cornas Renaissance 2014
92 points | \$90 | NA cases made | Red

Fresh, with a bright violet note out front, backed by racy red currant and bitter plum fruit flavors. Lots of chalk and savory details underscore the finish. Still tight, so cellar for a bit. Best from 2019 through 2024.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA CHARBONNIÈRE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2014
91 points | \$38 | 500 cases made | Red

Fresh and pure, featuring a lovely beam of cassis and damson plum flavors, streaming along with red licorice, lavender and tea notes. The long finish has an alluring, silky feel. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Drink now through 2025.—*J.M.*

GERMANY

Riesling Spätlese

A.J. ADAM

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Hofberg 2015
94 points | \$45 | 55 cases imported | White

This is bursting with peach, apricot, sweet corn and floral aromas and flavors. Sleek and silky in texture, this is racy and builds to a citrus- and mineral-infused aftertaste. Drink now through 2036.—*B.S.*

H. DÖNNHOFF

Riesling Spätlese Nahe Norheimer Kirschheck 2015
93 points | \$35 | 150 cases imported | White

This is spicy, evoking vanilla, nutmeg and cinnamon notes, with accents of apple and smoky slate. Racy and harmonious, presenting a long, expansive finish. Drink now through 2036.—*B.S.*

SELBACH-OSTER

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2015
93 points | \$30 | 50 cases imported | White

Offering fine aromas of violet, black currant and apple, this is spicy on the palate, fusing delicacy and tension with crackling acidity. Offers a mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2036.—*B.S.*

MEULENHOF

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Erdener Treppchen
Alte Reben 2015

92 points | \$30 | 20 cases imported | White

The mix of apple, peach, honey, floral and slate aromas and flavors is spry and persistent, thanks to the lively structure. This is balanced and lingers beautifully on the aftertaste. Drink now through 2036.—*B.S.*

MEULENHOF

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2015

92 points | \$25 | 30 cases imported | White

Feels a little dry on the palate, boasting floral, pink grapefruit, peach and stone notes. Vivid acidity keeps this focused and long on the finish. Drink now through 2036.—*B.S.*

MÜLLER-CATOIR

Riesling Spätlese Pfalz Bürgergarten Im Breumel 2015

92 points | \$65 | 45 cases imported | White

Very floral and intense, boasting iris, spearmint, nutmeg and grapefruit flavors. Round and juicy, with a long, lingering aftertaste of fruit, herbs and mineral. Drink now through 2033.—*B.S.*

GEORG ALBRECHT SCHNEIDER

Riesling Spätlese Rheinhessen Niersteiner Hipping 2015

92 points | \$17 | 448 cases imported | White

Laced with pink grapefruit and peach flavors, this white is sleek and taut, with vivid acidity stretching the finish. Brown spice and slate accents emerge there, along with a lip-smacking feel. Drink now through 2035.—*B.S.*

OREGON

LINGUA FRANCA

Chardonnay Willamette Valley Sisters 2015

94 points | \$90 | 330 cases made | White

Expressive and elegantly complex, with apple skin and spice aromas and precise flavors of star fruit, lime and mineral that build momentum toward the finish. Drink now through 2019.—*T.F.*

RÉSONANCE

Chardonnay McMinnville Hyland Vineyard 2015

94 points | \$50 | 70 cases made | White

Expressive aromas of spicy lees and lemon curd open to complex and voluptuous baked pear, nutmeg and toast flavors that linger on the finish. Drink now through 2019.—*T.F.*

LINGUA FRANCA

Chardonnay Willamette Valley Avni 2015

93 points | \$40 | 800 cases made | White

Sleek and steely, with lemon blossom and river stone aromas and delicately layered nectarine and mineral flavors that linger on the long, crisp finish. Drink now through 2019.—*T.F.*

LE CADEAU

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Rocheux 2015

92 points | \$50 | 143 cases made | Red

Refined and expressive, with an elegant complexity, offering floral raspberry aromas and persistent strawberry, green tea and spiced cinnamon flavors. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

SHEA

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard Block 7 2014

92 points | \$66 | 201 cases made | Red

Distinctive and well-structured, balancing expressive fruit with refined tannins. Raspberry and smoky, savory aromas open to complex blueberry, mineral and spice flavors. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

SOUTH AFRICA

White

SADIE FAMILY

Kokerboom Olifants River 2015

94 points | \$73 | 150 cases made | White

Gorgeous, with tangerine, nectarine and peach notes forming the core, backed by a racy streak of quinine. Picks up orange zest and bitter almond notes through the long finish. Sémillon. Drink now through 2024.—*J.M.*

BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF

Sémillon Franschoek 2014

93 points | \$50 | 65 cases imported | White

Lovely peach, clementine and nectarine flavors form the core, accented by jasmine, white ginger and honeysuckle notes. The long finish has a waxy edge. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

CAPE POINT VINEYARDS

Isliedh Cape Peninsula 2013

92 points | \$63 | 710 cases made | White

This late-release shows a mature edge, with a rounded, slightly waxy feel to the tangerine, peach and dried mirabelle plum notes. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2019.—*J.M.*

DE WETSHOF

Chardonnay Robertson Lesca 2016

92 points | \$25 | 3,500 cases made | White

A ripe style, but with the zip for focus and balance. A racy quinine note drives the core of yellow apple, pear and green fig fruit. A light hazelnut edge adds range. Drink now through 2019.—*J.M.*

MULLINEUX

Chenin Blanc Swartland Quartz Leliefontein 2015

92 points | \$88 | 10 cases imported | White

A ripe, focused style, with a tightly hewn beam of yellow apple and quince fruit streaking through, gilded with light ginger and honeysuckle notes. Persistent. Drink now through 2021.—*J.M.*

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.

JEAN-CLAUDE BOISSET

Chambolle-Musigny Les Charmes 2014
96 points | \$145 | 20 cases imported | Red

This is intense, starting out on the elegant side and building slowly to attain greater density and power. Spice, raspberry and cherry flavors form the center, with a layer of chalk and stone underneath. Shows fine concentration and balance, delivering a long, minerally aftertaste. Best from 2022 through 2042.

From France.—B.S.

M. CHAPOUTIER

Ermitage L'Ermite 2014
96 points | \$500 | 10 cases imported | Red

This has a solid bass line, with notes of anise, blackberry and plum steeped together, carried by a grippy, cocoa-edged structure. The back half is all cut and drive, showing brambly energy and a lovely singed juniper element. Best from 2018 through 2032.

From France.—J.M.

POWELL & SON

Shiraz Barossa Kraehe Marananga 2015
96 points | \$625 | 200 cases made | Red

A lush, intriguing mix of wilted rose petal, gingerbread, dark chocolate and toasted caraway seed notes. Polished and velvety, with a core of black cherry and kirsch flavors, persisting on the long and complex finish. Drink now through 2030.

From Australia.—M.W.

A. CLAPE

Cornas 2014
95 points | \$125 | NA cases made | Red

Solidly packed, with a bramble-edged core of dark plum, bitter cherry and black currant fruit, inlaid with bay leaf and savory notes. The serious chalky grip through the finish will need some time to stretch out. Shows terrific interplay between the grip and fruit. Best from 2020 through 2030. *From France.—J.M.*

ALEX GAMBAL

Chambolle-Musigny Aux Echanges 2014
95 points | \$130 | 30 cases imported | Red

Offers a complex mix of sweet cherry, strawberry, toasty oak and spice flavors, with leafy vegetal hints. Vibrant acidity and refined tannins match up with the ripe fruit, extending on the finish. Best from 2021 through 2039. *From France.—B.S.*

LUCIEN LE MOINE

Chambolle-Musigny Les Hauts Doix 2014
95 points | \$190 | 20 cases imported | Red

This red offers a dark expression of black cherry and black currant, spiced with sandalwood and a hint of licorice, all backed by a dense matrix of ripe tannins. Finds equilibrium on the long finish. Best from 2022 through 2045. *From France.—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: At large

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

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1993. Tasting beat: Austria, Burgundy, Germany, Italy

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

Gillian Sciaretta Tasting coordinator, New York
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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