

# Wine Spectator Insider

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## HOT WINES

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

### CHARLES SMITH

**Syrah Columbia Valley Royal City Stoneridge Vineyard 2009**

**97 points | \$140 | 400 cases made | Red**

Supple, rich and complex, this is a towering, majestic wine layered with floral, mineral and exotic spice character around a core of meaty black cherry, licorice and maple flavors. It all comes together seamlessly on the long, expressive finish. Drink now through 2020. *From Washington.—H.S.*

### K

**The Creator Walla Walla Valley 2009**  
**95 points | \$55 | 300 cases made | Red**

Firm, focused and dripping with personality, this is full of wet slate, rare meat and sourdough toast flavors, along with dense, dark blueberry and plum fruit, all competing for attention against polished tannins that let the finish roll on and on. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Best from 2014 through 2020. *From Washington.—H.S.*

## WASHINGTON

### K

**Syrah Wahluke Slope The Hidden Northridge Vineyard 2009**

**94 points | \$70 | 370 cases made | Red**

Offers freshness, purity and depth in a sleek package, with rose petal accents to the ripe blackberry, dark plum and brioche aromas and flavors. Lingers with deftness on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

### K

**Syrah Walla Walla Valley The Beautiful 2009**  
**94 points | \$60 | 290 cases made | Red**

Supple, plush and generous with its rose petal-accented blueberry and plum flavors, finishing with seamless integration of tannins. A big wine with a gentle mien. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

### K

**Syrah Walla Walla Valley Cougar Hills 2009**  
**92 points | \$45 | 300 cases made | Red**

Rich, complex, powerful and compelling, densely packed with ripe blackberry, black cherry, licorice and tar flavors that keep pumping through the rock-solid finish. Best from 2014 through 2020.—*H.S.*

### K

**Syrah Wahluke Slope Pheasant Vineyard 2009**  
**91 points | \$35 | 375 cases made | Red**

Round and generous, with the flavors leaning toward the dark side, but the structure is crisp and expressive, offering blackberry, tar and black pepper in the profile. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

### CHARLES SMITH

**King Coal Stoneridge Vineyard Columbia Valley 2009**  
**94 points | \$100 | 385 cases made | Red**

Big, broad and decidedly savory, with a strong meaty, earthy component to the dark berry and herb flavors. Highly polished, this has focus and depth to burn. Not for all tastes, but distinctive and impressive. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

### K

**Ovide En Cerise Walla Walla Valley 2009**  
**93 points | \$65 | 205 cases made | Red**

Supple, expansive and distinctive for the black olive, barbecue smoke and licorice overtones that weave through the dark, ripe blueberry and blackberry flavors. Finishes with hints of basalt and dark spices. Nicely put together, with a harmonious finish. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

### K

**Roma En Chamberlin Walla Walla Valley 2009**  
**93 points | \$65 | 185 cases made | Red**

Prominent earthy and gamy notes add depth and complexity to the rich vein of blackberry, dried blueberry and seared steak flavors that glide easily over polished tannins into the long, vivid finish. Offers great presence and distinctive flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

### K

**Syrah Wahluke Slope Milbrandt 2009**  
**90 points | \$30 | 750 cases made | Red**

Smooth and inviting, with a meaty animal note adding a spark of interest to the ripe, walnut-accented black cherry flavors. The finish tastes a bit cooked, but this is distinctive and welcoming. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*