

Wine Spectator Insider

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THERE'S SERIOUS VALUE APPEAL in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, with 15 wines at 90-plus points and \$40 or less. Reds and whites share the spotlight here, with diverse styles from Burgundy and Washington. For the collectors, there are excellent picks from *grands crus* like Bâtard-Montrachet, but there are also *premier cru* Chardonnays from around the Côte de Beaune and farther south in the Mâcon as well. Jean Chartron, Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey and Domaine Morey-Coffinet are a few respected names to look for.

Out of Washington, you'll find Cabernets, Syrahs, Chardonnays and even Viogniers this week, with the best examples coming from Owen Roe, Charles Smith, K, Spring Valley, Rasa, Columbia Crest and more. Be sure to check out the five Hot Wines on page 4.

WASHINGTON

K

Merlot Washington Stoneridge Vineyard 2010
92 points | \$45 | 490 cases made | Red

Plush, aromatic, and focused, furrowing the plum, currant and white pepper flavors into a smooth stream that stands out against modest tannins. Finishes with flair. Best from 2015 through 2020.—*H.S.*

K

The Creator Old Stones Walla Walla Valley 2010
92 points | \$55 | 495 cases made | Red

An earthy, savory style, offering distinctive mineral and grilled meat layers over the plum fruit lurking below the surface, lingering well as the finish expands deftly against refined tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Best from 2015 through 2020.—*H.S.*

K

Viognier Columbia Valley 2012
90 points | \$25 | 1,875 cases made | White

Vibrant, ripe, focused and distinctive, with honeyed almond and floral character around a core of pear and citrus flavors, lingering enticingly on the open-textured finish. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

CHARLES SMITH

Viognier Washington Lawrence Vineyard 2011
91 points | \$40 | 390 cases made | White

Polished, expressive and well-detailed, offering honeyed pear and spice flavors on a sleek frame. Has richness and a refreshing finish. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*