

Wine Spectator Insider

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WITH A 96-POINT RED AT JUST \$45 AND A 95-POINT WHITE at \$48 leading this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, the tone is firmly set for a parade of terrific values among the collectibles here. The *Insider* is a selection of wines that have recently impressed our editors in their tastings.

California and Washington deserve applause in the New World, with various Pinots, Chardonnays, Syrahs, Cabernets and more from the likes of Rudius, Shafer, Seghesio, K and Charles Smith. France brings rich *grand cru* Burgundies and exotic Champagnes. Seven wines here come in at \$40 or less and 90-plus points, with six more under \$50. Check out the six Hot Wines on page 4.

CALIFORNIA

EIGHTY FOUR

Petite Sirah Napa Valley 2010

94 points | \$65 | 300 cases made | Red

This is dark, bold and highly aromatic, yet retains a sense of restraint and grace. Sandalwood, white pepper, dried lavender and rosemary give in to ripe, juicy huckleberry and blueberry flavors. The tannins are both mouthfilling and plush. The finish just goes on and on. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

SEGHESIO

Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Cortina 2013

94 points | \$40 | 3,174 cases made | Red

This captures such a distinct sense of place that it almost smells like Dry Creek Valley. Briary raspberry and smoky cinnamon aromas lead to complex, layered flavors of dried sage, licorice and dark cherry. Tannins sneak in on the finish. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

EMERITUS

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Pinot Hill 2013

93 points | \$55 | 500 cases made | Red

Features seductively smoky, toasty oak up front, complementing the core of fresh and vibrant plum, raspberry and wild berry flavors. Ends with a long, snappy finish. Ripe tannins give the flavors traction. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

RAM'S GATE

Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Durell Vineyard 2013

93 points | \$74 | 263 cases made | White

Complex and layered, with an array of fresh floral notes and flavors of fig, citrus, green apple and honeydew, all well-centered, pure and focused. Ends with a touch of pithy citrus peel on the long, lingering finish. Drink now.—*J.L.*

SEGHESIO

Zinfandel Rockpile Rockpile 2013

93 points | \$38 | 2,522 cases made | Red

Impeccably focused and distinctive, with floral cherry, mineral and fresh sage aromas and flavors that combine subtle power with lively acidity, offering notes of raspberry and spicy herb. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

SBRAGIA FAMILY

Chardonnay Dry Creek Valley Home Ranch 2013

92 points | \$30 | 2,464 cases made | White

Beautifully crafted, rich and expansive, with a slow-building mix of green apple, tangerine, white peach and honeydew. Ends with a long, intense and persistent finish, echoing fig and honey. Drink now.—*J.L.*

FRANCE

Burgundy

DOMAINE FAIVELEY

Bâtard-Montrachet 2013

94 points | \$532 | 30 cases imported | White

A tight skein of lemon, apple and spice is fused to the vibrant structure in this linear white. A bit pinched on the finish for now, but should stretch out nicely with a little time. Indeed, with a few hours of air, this gains in richness, harmony and complexity. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*B.S.*

BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Corton-Charlemagne Domaine 2013

93 points | \$75 | 170 cases imported | White

Nutmeg, apple and white peach flavors are accented by lemon and stone in this lean, intense style. This is reticent now, but has depth and nascent power in reserve, building to a long aftertaste of spice and mineral. Best from 2018 through 2027.—*B.S.*

CHANSON PÈRE & FILS

Corton White Vergennes 2012

93 points | \$220 | 15 cases imported | White

Rich and well-toned, this white delivers lime blossom, apple, earth, spice and stone flavors matched to an energetic structure. Still a bit raw now, yet finishes long and pure, leaving a mouthwatering impression. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE FAIVELEY

Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet 2013

93 points | \$487 | 20 cases imported | White

A focused version, displaying ripe peach, apple, honey and spice flavors. This is still tight on the finish, yet balanced overall, with fine energy and length on the finish. Best from 2017 through 2025.—*B.S.*

RAMONET

Puligny-Montrachet Les Enseignères 2013

93 points | \$90 | 25 cases imported | White

Lime blossom, hazelnut, nut oil and apple flavors come together in this elegant, detailed white, which is beautifully integrated and lingers on the finish with a hint of butterscotch. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

FRANCE

Champagne

DRAPPIER

Brut Rosé Champagne Grande Sendrée 2006

94 points | \$130 | 10 cases imported | Sparkling

There's a subtle richness to this harmonious rosé Champagne, with up-front, expressive ripe raspberry and floral notes layered with pastry dough, almond skin, candied ginger, smoke and sea salt flavors. Seamlessly knit, with a fresh, mineral finish and vibrant acidity throughout. Disgorged October 2014. Drink now through 2030.—*A.N.*

CHARLES HEIDSIECK

Brut Rosé Champagne 2006

94 points | \$150 | 120 cases imported | Sparkling

This focused rosé Champagne offers a mousse with the texture of raw silk, which swathes the firm frame in layers of roasted hazelnut, baked peach, toasted brioche and crème de cassis flavors, with a rich and smoky underpinning and accents of candied kumquat, espresso, ground ginger and cumin that expand on the finish. Drink now through 2030.—*A.N.*

VEUVE CLICQUOT

Brut Champagne La Grande Dame 2006

94 points | \$145 | NA cases made | Sparkling

Bright and graceful, this seamlessly knits a subtle streak of smoke-tinged minerality with flavors of almond financier, poached pear, candied kumquat and crème de cassis, focused by vibrant acidity and a refined, creamy mousse. Disgorged January 2014. Drink now through 2030.—*A.N.*

PASCAL DOQUET

Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Horizon NV

93 points | \$57 | 400 cases imported | Sparkling

This well-cut version is defined by vibrant acidity and rich minerality, yet there's a sense of finesse to the integration of this elegant Champagne. The flavors of yellow peach, slivered almond, pastry and candied pink grapefruit zest are lasting and focused on the creamy mousse and finish. Disgorged March 2014. Drink now through 2022.—*A.N.*

DRAPPIER

Brut Champagne Grande Sendrée 2006

93 points | \$120 | 150 cases imported | Sparkling

An elegant version, with a smoky underpinning and finely knit flavors of black raspberry, candied kumquat, toasted almond and biscuit, layered with vivid acidity. Long and lacy on the lightly spiced finish. Disgorged February 2014. Drink now through 2026.—*A.N.*

CHARLES HEIDSIECK

Brut Rosé Champagne Réserve NV

93 points | \$80 | 833 cases imported | Sparkling

A rich and toasty style that's framed by vivid acidity, this shows lovely integration and an expressive palate of coffee liqueur, baked peach and roasted hazelnut. Drink now through 2023.—*A.N.*

HENRIOT

Brut Champagne 2006

93 points | \$99 | 500 cases imported | Sparkling

Seamlessly knit, with vibrant, citrusy acidity and a satiny, creamy mousse layered with poached peach, pastry cream, mineral and crushed hazelnut flavors. Drink now through 2030.—*A.N.*

LAURENT-PERRIER

Brut Rosé Champagne Grande Cuvée Alexandra 2004

93 points | \$350 | 27 cases imported | Sparkling

Rich and creamy, showing candied kumquat and dried apricot flavors married to the lively bead and acidity, with accents of pastry, marzipan, coconut and spice. Drink now through 2029.—*A.N.*

PIERRE LEGRAS

Brut Champagne 2004

93 points | \$90 | 195 cases imported | Sparkling

Aromatic, with notes of steeped and candied black currant and peach fruit, this expressive Champagne is framed by bright acidity and a lively bead. Drink now through 2026.—A.N.

MOËT & CHANDON

Brut Rosé Champagne Grand Vintage 2006

93 points | \$90 | NA cases made | Sparkling

Creamy and detailed in texture, this finely meshed Champagne features a firm backbone of acidity and rich minerality. Disgorged November 2013. Drink now through 2026.—A.N.

BRUNO PAILLARD

Brut Champagne N.P.U. Nec Plus Ultra 1999

93 points | \$185 | 420 cases made | Sparkling

The refined, creamy mousse softens the firm, focused acidity in this elegant Champagne, showing a fine knit and good balance. Disgorged January 2012. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

LOUIS ROEDERER

Brut Rosé Champagne 2010

93 points | \$80 | 1,236 cases imported | Sparkling

A vivacious rosé, marrying a delicate palate of white raspberry, pastry, blanched almond and white cherry flavors with citrusy acidity and an airy mousse. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

TARLANT

Extra Brut Blanc de Noirs Champagne

La Vigne Royale 2003

93 points | \$181 | 120 cases produced | Sparkling

The baked peach and plum fruit is structured by a substantial frame of acidity, heightened by the chalky texture. Balanced and powerful. Disgorged June 2014. Best from 2018 through 2028.—A.N.

PIERRE GIMONNET & FILS

Brut Champagne Cuvée Paradoxe 2007

92 points | \$64 | 200 cases imported | Sparkling

A fine and creamy mousse carries subtle flavors of pastry dough, green pear, lemon zest and mineral. Disgorged September 2013. Drink now through 2027.—A.N.

PIERRE MONCUIT

Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Hugues de Coulmet NV

91 points | \$42 | 400 cases imported | Sparkling

Aromatic, this shows a creamy mousse carrying the flavors of glazed apricot, biscuit, pickled ginger and fleur de sel. Disgorged December 2014. Drink now through 2018.—A.N.

ROYAL RIVIERA

Brut Champagne Suprême NV

91 points | \$42 | 1,000 cases imported | Sparkling

A mineral-driven Champagne, with lively acidity and a creamy mousse carrying flavors of glazed apricot, pink grapefruit zest, pickled ginger and biscuit. Drink now through 2019.—A.N.

G.H. MUMM

Brut Champagne Cordon Rouge NV

90 points | \$40 | 15,000 cases imported | Sparkling

Flavors of poached pear, candied lemon zest and biscuit, with a rich hint of roasted almond, ride the lively bead of this crisp, mineral Champagne. Drink now through 2018.—A.N.

WASHINGTON

K

Syrah Wahluke Slope The Deal Sundance 2012

94 points | \$35 | 447 cases made | Red

Roasted meat and green olive flavors complement the rich currant, plum and spice character, which swirls through the long, expressive finish. Drink now through 2025.—H.S.

LACHINI

La Contrada Red Mountain 2012

94 points | \$55 | 99 cases made | Red

Broad and spicy, with plum compote flavors on a round frame and prickly tannins adding their texture. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2018 through 2025.—H.S.

BALBOA

Mith Walla Walla Valley 2012

93 points | \$45 | 400 cases made | Red

Broad and generous, this is ripe, with pure purple plum and blackberry flavors at the center. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Drink now through 2022.—H.S.

PROPER

Syrah Walla Walla Valley 2013

93 points | \$42 | 575 cases made | Red

Velvety and generous, making its abundance of deep, mineral-tinged plum and spice flavors float over refined tannins into the long and expressive finish. Drink now through 2023.—H.S.

SNOQUALMIE

Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Reserve 2012

91 points | \$20 | 800 cases made | Red

Fresh and expressive, this is inviting for its pure, focused cherry flavors, with hints of cedar and mint around the edges. The tannins are nicely modulated. Drink now through 2022.—H.S.

WAITSBURG CELLARS

Chenin Blanc Columbia Valley Chevray The Aromatics

Old Vine 2014

91 points | \$18 | 708 cases made | White

Fresh, crisp and vital, this is nicely fleshed out, with pear, green apple, lemon curd and spice flavors on a sleek structure that finishes gracefully. Drink now through 2022.—H.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.

K

Syrah Walla Walla Valley Morrison Lane 2012
96 points | \$45 | 387 cases made | Red

Distinctly minerally, with wet stone and salty overtones to the rich plum and blackberry fruit, merging harmoniously on the powerful finish as this persists beautifully. Drink now through 2025. *From Washington.*—H.S.

RUDIUS

Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2013
95 points | \$48 | 190 cases made | White

Tightly focused, rich and fresh, offering a broad mix of fleshy white peach, apricot, green fig and lemon-lime notes that are both tangy and tame, ending with a burst of lemon-flavored candy details. Drink now through 2019. *From California.*—J.L.

CHARLES SMITH

Syrah Columbia Valley Royal City Stoneridge Vineyard 2012
95 points | \$140 | 405 cases made | Red

Meaty, supple and expressive, with layers of minerally and smoky notes playing against earthy, lifted blackberry and dark plum flavors at the core. Tautly paced and harmonious, this finishes long, with miles to go. Drink now through 2024. *From Washington.*—H.S.

TAITTINGER

Brut Rosé Champagne Comtes de Champagne 2006
95 points | \$262 | 60 cases imported | Sparkling

A lovely Champagne, offering a rich and expressive palate of dried strawberry and white peach fruit, with toasted hazelnut, pastry, candied ginger and lemon curd flavors set in a fine and elegant frame. Long and creamy on the satiny finish. Drink now through 2031. *From France.*—A.N.

DOMAINE FAIVELEY

Corton-Charlemagne 2013
94 points | \$341 | 50 cases imported | White

An elegant white, featuring stunning aromas and flavors of lime blossom, peach, apple and mineral, with a dose of sweet spices. This is balanced and should be approachable soon, with fine length. Best from 2018 through 2027. *From France.*—B.S.

SHAFER

Relentless Napa Valley 2012
94 points | \$85 | 3,300 cases made | Red

A deeply structured blend that combines power with richness. Aromas of blackberry and crushed rock open to layered, complex flavors of black cherry, espresso and smoky cracked pepper. Tannins are big but fleshy. Syrah and Petite Sirah. Best from 2017 through 2028. *From California.*—T.F.

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).

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1981. Tasting beat: California

Harvey Steiman Editor at large, San Francisco
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: Australia, Oregon, Washington

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

Gillian Sciarretta Associate 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