

# Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

**RICH REDS UP TO 97 POINTS LEAD THIS WEEK'S** *Wine Spectator Insider*, an array of diverse, recently rated wines that our editors have discovered in their tastings. Three U.S. states and three additional countries show off Cabernet, Pinot, Syrah, Zinfandel, bubbly and much more.

California, Oregon and Washington contribute some favorite names: Roar, Bevan, Dehlinger, Seghesio, Bergström, Ponzi, K, Ste.-Michelle and others. France delivers exuberant Champagnes, while rock-solid Barolos represent Italy, and Spain chimes in with a mix of styles. There are 10 wines here at 90-plus points and \$40 or less, as low as \$15. Don't miss the six Hot Wines on page 4.

## CALIFORNIA

### BEVAN CELLARS

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Summit 1376' 2013  
**93 points | \$75 | 200 cases made | Red**

Broad and rich, offering an exotic range of flavors, extending from jammy berry to rhubarb, blueberry and wild berry. Turns thick and unctuous on the palate, ending with a long, layered finish. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

### DEHLINGER

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Goldridge 2013  
**93 points | \$48 | 1,285 cases made | Red**

Offers charming aromas of raspberry, blueberry and wild berry, with touches of spice, anise, mineral and oak. Shows impressive delicacy, detail and finesse. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

### DUMOL

Syrah Sonoma Coast Jack Robert's Run 2013  
**93 points | \$72 | 264 cases made | Red**

Broodingly powerful, with a core of lively acidity and firm tannins. Aromas of boysenberry and crushed rock open to complex flavors of black cherry, smoky beef and grilled herb, finishing with muscular tannins. Hands off for now. Best from 2018 through 2023.—*T.F.*

### EXPRESSION

Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills 34<sup>o</sup> 2013  
**93 points | \$36 | 378 cases made | Red**

A rich, intense style, loaded with dark berry, raspberry, spice and floral scents. For all the apparent size on display, this remains graceful and easy to enjoy. Delivers ample density and tannins on the finish, with the concentration and depth to cellar. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

### SEGHESIO

Zinfandel Sonoma County Sonoma 2014  
**93 points | \$24 | 116,000 cases made | Red**

Plump and luscious, this is jam-packed with fruit. Lively blackberry, pepper and other spice box aromas lead to ripe and rich flavors of black raspberry, caramel and licorice. There are more complex Zinfandels, but few that are more enjoyable to drink. Drink now through 2022.—*T.F.*

### SCHRAMSBERG

Reserve North Coast 2007  
**92 points | \$120 | 2,540 cases made | Sparkling**

Polished, plush and full-bodied, with hints of rich maturity. Aromas of yeasty cinnamon brioche, cherry and apple open to layered flavors of hazelnut, crème brûlée and spice. Drink now.—*T.F.*

## FRANCE Champagne

### VEUVE CLICQUOT

Brut Rosé Champagne La Grande Dame 2006  
**94 points | \$295 | NA cases made | Sparkling**

Delicate flavors of white raspberry, toast, candied ginger and smoky minerality are seamlessly knit in this vibrant rosé Champagne, slowly expanding on the palate into the lasting finish of fruit, saline and sliced almond. Disgorged September 2014. Drink now through 2030.—*A.N.*

## BOLLINGER

Brut Rosé Champagne La Grande Année 2004

**93 points | \$210 | 300 cases imported | Sparkling**

Framed by firm acidity and a minerally character, this harmonious rosé Champagne offers expressive flavors of raspberry pâte de fruit, ripe black cherry, brioche and lemon curd. Chalky in texture, with an elegant finish of spice, graphite and ground coffee. Disgorged July 2014. Drink now through 2024.—A.N.

## DEUTZ

Brut Rosé Champagne Amour de Deutz 2006

**93 points | \$220 | 50 cases imported | Sparkling**

The toasted brioche and smoke notes are a rich, aromatic entry into this harmonious Champagne, which seamlessly knits a firm frame and refined mousse with flavors of crème de cassis, roasted hazelnut, oyster shell and spice. Drink now through 2030.—A.N.

## PIERRE GIMONNET & FILS

Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Cuvée Gastronomer 2009

**93 points | \$66 | 100 cases imported | Sparkling**

Bright and creamy, this firm version is powerful and harmonious, offering a minerally underpinning and flavors of apricot, chalk and biscotti. Spice and citrus peel notes linger on the finish. Disgorged November 2013. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

## PERRIER-JOUËT

Brut Rosé Champagne Belle Époque 2006

**93 points | \$300 | 4,000 cases imported | Sparkling**

The apricot and kumquat fruit is set on a fine, satiny mousse in this elegant Champagne, while the rich, minerally underpinning supports flavors of smoked almond, oyster shell and pastry. Offers a lasting, vibrant finish. Drink now through 2028.—A.N.

## PHILIPPONNAT

Brut Champagne Cuvée 1522 2006

**93 points | \$95 | 830 cases made | Sparkling**

Smoke and licorice notes underscore the ripe green pear, biscotti, preserved lemon and spun honey notes in this finely knit Champagne. Rich in profile yet elegant overall, with a mouthwatering, spiced finish. Disgorged March 2015. Drink now through 2026.—A.N.

## PLOYEZ-JACQUEMART

Brut Champagne Marie Weiss NV

**92 points | \$38 | 375 cases imported | Sparkling**

A rich, toasty version, with a frame of lively acidity and flavors of pear financier, black currant, ground coffee and candied kumquat riding the finely detailed bead. Vanilla and spice notes linger on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—A.N.

## ITALY Barolo

### CASCINA ADELAIDE

Barolo Baudana 2011

**94 points | \$125 | 60 cases imported | Red**

A delicate example for the appellation, this red boasts floral, strawberry and raspberry aromas and flavors that remain persistent and intense. Best from 2018 through 2032.—B.S.

### GIUSEPPE RINALDI

Barolo Tre Tine 2011

**94 points | \$135 | 350 cases imported | Red**

This silky red boasts rose, raspberry and strawberry flavors, backed by firm, refined tannins. This is elegant and remains long and focused on the aftertaste. Best from 2018 through 2032.—B.S.

### ALDO CONTERNO

Barolo Cicala 2011

**93 points | \$140 | 125 cases imported | Red**

A spicy version, this red mingles woody cedar and sandalwood flavors with steeped cherry and leather notes. Shows plenty of grip on the back end. Best from 2019 through 2033.—B.S.

### VIETTI

Barolo Ravera 2011

**93 points | \$150 | 110 cases imported | Red**

Cherry and plum flavors permeate this rich red. Accented by menthol and leather, this is balanced and fresh, with a lingering aftertaste of mineral and tobacco. Best from 2019 through 2032.—B.S.

### RENATO RATTI

Barolo Rocche dell' Annunziata 2011

**92 points | \$120 | 325 cases imported | Red**

Wild juniper, sage, eucalyptus and macerated cherry notes highlight this rich red. Exhibits spice from oak, remaining polished despite the firm tannins. Best from 2018 through 2030.—B.S.

## OREGON BERGSTRÖM

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Bergström Vineyard 2013

**93 points | \$85 | 1,200 cases made | Red**

Refreshing, polished and juicy, with orange peel-accented black cherry and floral flavors, showing hints of pepper and clove. The finish exhibits pizzazz and grace. Drink now through 2023.—H.S.

### DOMAINE SERENE

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Evenstad Reserve 2012

**93 points | \$70 | 7,900 cases made | Red**

Focused, vital, ripe and distinctive, with a coppery note weaving through the strawberry and raspberry flavors. Hints at clove and root beer as the finish persists. Drink now through 2022.—H.S.

## RÉSONANCE

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Résonance Vineyard 2013  
**93 points | \$65 | 2,000 cases made | Red**

Light and focused, showing distinctive subtlety. A layer of crinkly tannins underlies a pulsing core of mineral-accented cherry and red berry flavors. Best from 2017 through 2023.—*H.S.*

## PONZI

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2013  
**92 points | \$40 | 6,000 cases made | Red**

Sleek and inviting, layering the black cherry, pear tart and root beer flavors on a polished frame. Finishes long, with complexity and definition. Drink now through 2023.—*H.S.*

## SPAIN

### ARTADI

Rioja Valdegines 2012  
**93 points | \$65 | 95 cases imported | Red**

This graceful red shows focus, depth and energy. Black cherry, espresso and loamy earth flavors are brightened by leafy, licorice and floral notes. Drink now through 2025.—*T.M.*

### BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS MONTEABELLÓN

Ribera del Duero Oraculo 2009  
**93 points | \$70 | 250 cases imported | Red**

Tarry and sanguine flavors give this muscular red an austere character, offset by a core of plum, with licorice and cocoa notes emerging on the finish. Best from 2016 through 2026.—*T.M.*

### PALACIO DEL BURGO

Rioja Reserva 2010  
**93 points | \$20 | 275 cases imported | Red**

Plum, blood orange, black olive, toast and mineral notes mingle in this tight, bright red. Juicy acidity keeps this lively, while firm tannins impart focus. Drink now through 2025.—*T.M.*

### BODEGAS VALPARAISO

Ribera del Duero Finca El Encinal Crianza 2011  
**92 points | \$19 | 2,000 cases imported | Red**

Toasty oak, ripe fruit and vibrant acidity add up to a balanced, expressive red. The cherry and berry flavors are bright, while cocoa and mineral notes add depth. Drink now through 2021.—*T.M.*

### BODEGAS MEDRANO IRAZU

Rioja Reserva 2009  
**91 points | \$25 | 600 cases imported | Red**

This sleek red shows focus and depth. Black cherry, licorice, cigar box and dried herb flavors are supported by firm, well-integrated tannins and fresh acidity. Drink now through 2022.—*T.M.*

## CELLERS BARONIA DEL MONTSANT

Garnatxa-Carinyena Montsant Cims del Montsant 2012  
**90 points | \$15 | 6,491 cases made | Red**

Black cherry and dark chocolate flavors mingle with notes of smoke, licorice and mountain herb in this focused red. Lively acidity keeps this fresh. Drink now through 2020.—*T.M.*

## WASHINGTON

### K

The Creator Walla Walla Valley 2012  
**94 points | \$55 | 1,301 cases made | Red**

Supple, expressive, polished and generous, with layers of dark berry, cherry, black olive and spice flavors that merge harmoniously. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

### ALEXANDRIA NICOLE

Destiny Destiny Ridge Vineyards Horse Heaven Hills 2012  
**93 points | \$48 | 367 cases made | Red**

Supple and expressive, with plum, currant, blackberry and white chocolate flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Carmenère. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

### CHARLES SMITH

Malbec Washington Broncho Stoneridge Vineyard 2012  
**93 points | \$70 | 133 cases made | Red**

Supple, polished, ripe and expressive, with blueberry and plum flavors at the core and hints of cocoa, tar and dark spices on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

### BUTY

Columbia Rediviva Phinny Hill Vineyard  
Horse Heaven Hills 2012  
**92 points | \$50 | 415 cases made | Red**

Supple and open-textured, with rich plum and black cherry fruit riding easily over polished tannins, with hints of coffee and spice. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

### EFESTE

Syrah Red Mountain Ceidleigh 2012  
**92 points | \$39 | 764 cases made | Red**

Firm in texture and generous, with mineral-accented blackberry and dark plum flavors, coming together harmoniously as the finish carries on. Best from 2017 through 2022.—*H.S.*

### SEVEN HILLS

Pentad Walla Walla Valley 2012  
**92 points | \$75 | 310 cases made | Red**

Broad and supple, with rich cherry, floral and meaty flavors that come together seamlessly. Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Merlot, Malbec and Carmenère. 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 Rock Garden 2012**  
**97 points | \$60 | 348 cases made | Red**

Dense, rich, ripe and expressive, offering plum and black currant flavors and hints of ripe pear, honey and flowers. The minerally finish wells up with intensity and harmony. Has tremendous presence and depth. Best from 2017 through 2025. *From Washington.—H.S.*

## BERGSTRÖM

**Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge Le Pré Du Col Vineyard 2013**  
**95 points | \$60 | 1,500 cases made | Red**

Supple, seductive and distinctive, with pure blueberry fruit, shaded with white pepper, pear skin and floral character that dances into a long and deftly balanced finish. Has presence and intensity without extra weight. Drink now through 2023. *From Oregon.—H.S.*

## CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE-DR. LOOSEN

**Riesling Horse Heaven Hills Eroica Single Berry Select 2008**  
**95 points | \$200/375ml | 21 cases made | Dessert**

A tawny color and richly honeyed flavors mark this as a postprandial drink. Features layers of caramel, buttered toast and candied fig flavors that somehow lighten up as the finish persists. Despite the sweetness, this feels elegant. The finish goes on and on. Drink now through 2025. *From Washington.—H.S.*

## ELVIO COGNO

**Barolo Ravera 2011**  
**95 points | \$76 | 250 cases imported | Red**

A clean, focused style, with classic rose, cherry, tar and tobacco aromas and flavors. This red has warmth, balance, structure and complexity, with plenty of fruit. Offers a fine, intense aftertaste of cherry, mineral and tobacco. Best from 2019 through 2033. *From Italy.—B.S.*

## HENRI GIRAUD

**Brut Champagne Argonne 2004**  
**94 points | \$340 | 70 cases imported | Sparkling**

Soft and creamy, with a rich panoply of toasted coconut, orange marmalade, brioche, crystallized honey and banana cream pie flavors. The firm, finely knit acidity keeps this vibrant and focused. Offers a long, well-spiced finish. Drink now through 2029. *From France.—A.N.*

## ROAR

**Syrah Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2013**  
**94 points | \$40 | 71 cases made | Red**

Power meets finesse in this red. Bold blackberry and cracked pepper beef aromas open to rich, ripe flavors of boysenberry, black olive and smoky anise. The tannins are big but plush. Drink now through 2023. *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).

**James Laube** Senior editor, Napa  
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

**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** Tasting director, 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

**MaryAnn Worobiec** Senior editor, Napa  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: California, New Zealand

**Alison Napjus** Senior editor, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2000. Tasting beat: Alsace, Beaujolais, Champagne, Italy

**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