

Wine Spectator Insider

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CLASSICS OLD AND NEW LEAD THE WAY in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, which showcases the most exciting wines our editors have recently discovered in our tasting room. Vintage Champagne and Oregon Pinot are joined here by powerful reds and intriguing whites from Italy, and a selection of Chardonnays.

In France, Ruinart and Vazart-Coquart fizz stylishly, while single-vineyard Oregon Pinot and Chardonnay from Bethel Heights, Archery Summit, Domaine Drouhin, Domaine Serene and Ponzi impress. Don't miss a diverse Italian selection of Barolos, super Tuscans and more from producers such as Antinori, Mirafiore, Ca' Marcanda and Jermann. The six Hot Wines here can be found on page 4.

FRANCE Champagne

RUINART

Brut Rosé Champagne Dom Ruinart 2002
94 points | \$280 | 76 cases imported | Sparkling

Refined and creamy, with a rich vein of smoky minerality layered with flavors of strawberry pâte de fruit, dried marjoram, peach skin and marzipan. An elegant version, but firm and focused throughout. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

PIERRE GERBAIS

Brut Nature Champagne L'Audace NV
92 points | \$59 | 45 cases imported | Sparkling

Crisp acidity frames this firm Champagne, with flavors of pineapple, Anjou pear and black raspberry that are ripe and juicy on the palate, accented by hazelnut and fleur de sel notes. Chalky. Disgorged January 2014. Drink now through 2020.—A.N.

PIERRE GERBAIS

Extra Brut Champagne L'Originale NV
92 points | \$85 | 16 cases imported | Sparkling

A vivacious Champagne, driven by vivid acidity that structures the pleasing palate of ripe Gala apple, floral, yellow plum and hazelnut notes. The finish is firm, yet features rich hints of pastry cream and spice. Pinot Blanc. Disgorged January 2014. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

GODMÉ PÈRE & FILS

Brut Rosé Champagne NV
92 points | \$72 | 79 cases imported | Sparkling

Showing lovely balance and a fine, chalky texture, this features bright acidity layered with well-meshed flavors of ripe black cherry, biscuit, sliced almond and Meyer lemon. Offers a firm, floral finish. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

VAZART-COQUART

Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Réserve NV
92 points | \$43 | 121 cases imported | Sparkling

A hint of salted almond underscores the yellow plum, biscuit, anise and candied kumquat flavors in this well-cut, lively Champagne. A creamy mousse carries graphite and spice accents on the finish. Disgorged January 2014. Drink now through 2020.—A.N.

ITALY BINOMIO

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2009
93 points | \$50 | 150 cases imported | Red

Rich and creamy, with grippy tannins imparting a plush texture that carries the flavors of black olive tapenade, blackberry coulis, seared mushroom and mulled plum. Finely knit, offering ground anise, graphite and dried marjoram accents that linger on the finish. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

MIRAFIORE

Barolo Paigallo 2010

93 points | \$100 | 100 cases imported | Red

Tightly wound and dense, this red manages to stay light on its feet. Cherry, tar, licorice and spice flavors stay vibrant and fresh as this persists on the finish. Best from 2018 through 2033.—*B.S.*

ANTINORI

Bolgheri Superiore Guado al Tasso 2011

92 points | \$102 | 3,250 cases imported | Red

Inky in both color and flavor, with black currant and blackberry notes, this is pure and focused, with well-integrated tannins and a saturated finish echoing the fruit. Best from 2016 through 2024.—*B.S.*

MARCHESI DI BAROLO

Barolo Cannubi 2010

92 points | \$107 | 700 cases imported | Red

Leather, licorice and tar notes accent the core of cherry in this sinewy red. There's plenty of fruit to balance the structure, though this finishes on the chewy side for now. Fine length. Best from 2018 through 2030.—*B.S.*

BINOMIO

Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2010

92 points | \$50 | 150 cases imported | Red

Harmonious, with bold oak spice and bacon fat notes on the nose, belying the supple, subtle palate of plumped black cherry, espresso crème and melted licorice, all structured by fine-grained tannins and mouthwatering acidity. Herb and mineral accents linger on the finish. Drink now through 2025.—*A.N.*

CA' MARCANDA

Bolgheri Magari 2012

92 points | \$85 | 10,000 cases made | Red

Rich and bursting with cedar, licorice, black currant and sandalwood aromas and flavors, this red is dense and chewy. Balanced and long, this begs for grilled steak or a roast. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2022.—*B.S.*

JERMANN

Venezia-Giulia Vintage Tunina 2012

92 points | \$70 | 5,800 cases made | White

A lovely, creamy white, with vibrant acidity and a streak of smoky mineral driving the flavors of melon, Marcona almond, Meyer lemon, white peach and orchard blossom. Shows good definition and complexity, yet remains lithe and mouthwatering overall. Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Ribolla Gialla, Malvasia Istriana and Picolit. Drink now through 2025.—*A.N.*

CANTINE LUNAE BOSONI

Vermentino Colli di Luni-Liguria Black Label 2013

92 points | \$40 | 50 cases imported | White

This is lush in texture, enveloping the lemon, thyme, chive and mineral flavors seamlessly. Builds to a chalky, stone-inflected aftertaste that lingers. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

ODOARDI

Calabria GB 2012

92 points | \$45 | 300 cases imported | Red

A stylish red, in a ripe, modern style, brimming with blueberry and boysenberry fruit, and flavors of mocha, vanilla, olive tapenade and black licorice drop. The firm tannins are supple and cushioned by the expressive flavor profile. Magliocco, Gaglioppo and Nerello Capuccio. Drink now through 2028.—*A.N.*

PECCHENINO

Barolo San Giuseppe 2010

92 points | \$62 | 466 cases made | Red

Cherry, anise, menthol and tar aromas and flavors signal this unadorned Barolo. Fresh and well-balanced, this needs time to absorb the dusty tannins. Should come around soon. Best from 2017 through 2029.—*B.S.*

PASQUALE PELISSERO

Barbaresco Cascina Crosa 2011

91 points | \$30 | 336 cases imported | Red

A dense style, with fresh acidity and tannins framing the plum, black cherry, licorice, spice and tobacco flavors. Leans toward the tannins for now, showing fine length. Best from 2017 through 2025.—*B.S.*

VINCENZO IPPOLITO

Cirò Colli del Mancuso Riserva 2009

90 points | \$29 | 350 cases imported | Red

Leather and olive notes create a savory base, layered with a subtle mix of dried cherry, light herb, mocha and loamy earth flavors. An old-school wine, creamy, balanced and very drinkable, with light grip on the finish. Gaglioppo. Drink now through 2024.—*A.N.*

OREGON

BETHEL HEIGHTS

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills West Block 2012

94 points | \$50 | 95 cases made | Red

Fleshy, open-textured and light on its feet, with pretty strawberry and tomato leaf flavors that widen into red plum and spice elements as the finish expands and lengthens. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

BETHEL HEIGHTS

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Illahe Vineyards 2012

94 points | \$50 | 113 cases made | Red

Firm and focused, in an expansive style, this light-footed version melds black currant, plum and delicate spice flavors into a mouthfilling package that floats through the long finish. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

CHAPTER 24

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 00 Hyland 2012
94 points | \$300 | 25 cases made | Red

Firm in texture and a bit tart. Despite featuring a raw edge to the cherry and cinnamon flavors at the center, this has waves of minerality on the remarkably harmonious and open-textured finish. Cascading with subtle elements, this gains depth and complexity with every sip. Best from 2017 through 2025.—*H.S.*

LANGE

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Lange Estate Vineyard 2012
94 points | \$70 | 350 cases made | Red

Plush and generous, light-footed but expansive, with a hint of crème brûlée to the plum, currant and spice flavors that take off and float through the long, enticing finish. The tannins are well-absorbed. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

PATTON VALLEY

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Lorna-Marie 2012
94 points | \$70 | 200 cases made | Red

Open-textured, inviting and focused, layering ripe currant, blueberry and spice flavors on a well-mannered frame, coming together harmoniously on the long and expressive finish. Stylish and impressive. Best from 2016 through 2022.—*H.S.*

PONZI

Chardonnay Chehalem Mountains Aurora 2012
94 points | \$60 | 125 cases made | White

Taut, focused and expressive, aligning vibrant pear, Winesap apple and mineral flavors into a brilliant beam that picks up hints of clove and tomato leaf as the finish gains momentum. Seamless and elegant. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

ARTISANAL

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Vintage Reserve 2011
93 points | \$42 | 152 cases made | Red

Packs plenty of flavor and expression into a taut package, layering plum, currant and black pepper notes into a focused, fine-grained package. Has depth and persistence. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

BRITTAN

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Gestalt Block 2012
93 points | \$55 | 205 cases made | Red

Broad in structure, tangy in balance, with raging acidity playing against ripe cherry, blackberry and mineral flavors, persisting into a vivid and expressive finish. Best from 2016 through 2022.—*H.S.*

DOMAINE SERENE

Chardonnay Dundee Hills Clos de Lune Vineyard 2012
93 points | \$70 | 110 cases made | White

Polished and elegant, with refreshing grapefruit, melon and pear flavors at the fore, balanced with creamy, spicy overtones as the finish persists. Holds a lot in reserve. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

DOMAINE SERENE

Chardonnay Dundee Hills Evenstad Reserve 2012
93 points | \$55 | 1,400 cases made | White

Fresh and vibrant, polished in texture and juicy, with star fruit, grapefruit and peach flavors that zip against lively acidity through a spicy, complete and harmonious finish. Shows impressive presence and length. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

OMERO

Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge 2012
93 points | \$38 | 600 cases made | Red

Light, crisp tannins wrap around a gorgeous core of ripe cherry, plum and spice, held in check by strands of wet earth and dusky spice, finishing with harmony and finesse. Has depth and detail. Best from 2016 through 2022.—*H.S.*

SCOTT PAUL

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Pre 2012
93 points | \$48 | 85 cases made | Red

Light and inviting, with floral overtones to the cohesive plum and pear flavors, floating serenely over gently nubby tannins on the long and expressive finish. Graceful and endlessly appealing. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

TENDRIL

Chardonnay Willamette Valley 2012
93 points | \$40 | 170 cases made | White

Polished, creamy and spicy, with clove and nutmeg accents around a silky core of pear and pineapple flavors. Shows a touch of white pepper as the finish lingers enticingly. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

TWELVE

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Reserve 2012
93 points | \$40 | 200 cases made | Red

Taut, tart, focused and bright, with vivid blackberry, raspberry, floral, green tea and spice flavors that come together seamlessly on the long and expressive finish. Has intensity and weightlessness. 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.

BETHEL HEIGHTS

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Flat Block 2012
95 points | \$58 | 245 cases made | Red

Glass-smooth and polished, brimming with boysenberry, plum, rhubarb pie and exotic spice flavors, coming together into a taut, medium-weight and expressive finish, persisting impressively. Drink now through 2022. *From Oregon.—H.S.*

RUINART

Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Dom Ruinart 2004
95 points | \$130 | 460 cases imported | Sparkling

Showing an impressive backbone of acidity, this is dense and powerful, yet harmonious overall. The fine, creamy mousse swathes the statuesque frame in a silky texture, with honeysuckle, graphite and hazelnut notes lending fragrant accents to the rich palate of baked white peach, toasted brioche, lemon confit and smoke. Drink now through 2030. *From Champagne.—A.N.*

ARCHERY SUMMIT

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Archer's Edge Estate 2012
94 points | \$85 | 493 cases made | Red

Lively and inviting, with lavish fruit character and a mouthful of blackberry, boysenberry and black cherry flavors. Set on a lithe, open-textured frame, this picks up hints of spice and verbena as the finish lingers. The tannins are well-contained. Drink now through 2022. *From Oregon.—H.S.*

DOMAINE DROUHIN

Chardonnay Dundee Hills Édition Limitée 2012
94 points | \$65 | 149 cases made | White

Taut, with a raw edge to the vibrant Bosc pear, white nectarine and mineral flavors—a profile that would be familiar to those who like Meursault. The elements meld seamlessly on the long and expressive finish. Best from 2016 through 2022. *From Oregon.—H.S.*

DOMAINE SERENE

Chardonnay Dundee Hills Récolte Grand Cru 2011
94 points | \$125 | 150 cases made | White

Tangy, with vibrant acidity and expressive, ripe and citrusy flavors. Offers a distinctive profile of star fruit and quince, homing in on pineapple and mineral notes as the taut finish lingers. Drink now through 2020. *From Oregon.—H.S.*

ROCO

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley The Stalker 2012
94 points | \$50 | 324 cases made | Red

Sleek and racy, with vibrant notes of black cherry, dark plum and earthy spice playing against fine tannins and lively acidity. Mineral and maple syrup aromatics add to the finish. Drink now through 2022. *From Oregon.—H.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 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:
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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

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Bordeaux, Loire Valley, Rhône Valley, South Africa

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2000. Tasting beat: Alsace, Beaujolais, Champagne, Italy

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

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