

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

FROM BRASH CABERNETS TO RAPIER SAUVIGNON BLANCS, this week's *Wine Spectator Insider* features a range of styles that are sure to please many tastes. This report showcases wines, up to 96 points, that have recently excited our editors in their tastings.

In the New World, look for strong efforts out of California, Washington and Australia from top names like Paul Hobbs, Orin Swift, Turley, No Girls, Cayuse, Two Hands and Leeuwin. Francophiles can choose from lofty *cru* Burgundies, Châteauneufs and Sancerre stars. Check out the six Hot Wines on page 4.

AUSTRALIA

TWO HANDS

Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Valley Aphrodite 2013

93 points | \$185 | 90 cases made | Red

Generous and ripe, offering cherry cola and red licorice notes up front, giving way to black cherry and red plum flavors and accents of cardamon and toast. Fleshy and supple, with the tannins turning velvety on the long finish. Drink now through 2026.—M.W.

TWO HANDS

Grenache Barossa Valley Aerope 2013

93 points | \$125 | 60 cases made | Red

Richly aromatic, with walnut bread, plum compote and white pepper accents that are intense, supported by velvety tannins. Shows plenty of power and finesse as the flavors mingle harmoniously on the long finish. Drink now through 2030.—M.W.

TWO HANDS

Shiraz McLaren Vale Dave's Block Single Vineyard

Blythmans Road Blewitt Springs 2014

93 points | \$125 | 210 cases made | Red

Dense but never heavy, packed with polished flavors of cinnamon, maraschino cherry, raspberry and forest floor. A dusty sage note lingers on the finish. Drink now through 2030.—M.W.

OCHOTA BARRELS

Grenache McLaren Vale The Fugazi Vineyard

Onka Blewitt Ridge 2015

92 points | \$65 | 120 cases imported | Red

Supple and elegant, with a sense of precision to the sour cherry, clove, smoky black tea and white pepper details. Aromatic and expressive through the long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2030.—M.W.

OCHOTA BARRELS

Syrah Barossa Valley The Shellac Vineyard

Roennfeldt Road Marananga 2015

92 points | \$80 | 75 cases imported | Red

Distinctive, with plenty of white pepper and lavender notes up front, backed by a core of cardamon and fresh, juicy cherry flavors set on an elegant, taut frame, lingering with spice and mineral accents. Drink now through 2026.—M.W.

SYRAHMI

Shiraz Heathcote Dreams 2012

92 points | \$69 | 32 cases imported | Red

Detailed, with dried lavender, mineral and cardamon notes complementing the juicy cherry and black pepper flavors. Offers a rich, gingerbread-laced finish and refined tannins. Drink now through 2026.—M.W.

TWO HANDS

Shiraz Barossa Valley Coach House Block Single Vineyard
Seppeltsfield Road Greenock 2014
92 points | \$125 | 240 cases made | Red

Supple and creamy, with broad, ripe, fleshy plum and cherry flavors, accented by notes of baking spices, cigar box and toast. Details of cola and milk chocolate appear on the finish. Drink now through 2026.—M.W.

TWO HANDS

Shiraz Heathcote Max's Garden 2014
92 points | \$69 | 270 cases made | Red

Juicy and bold, offering plenty of plum jam and wild blueberry flavors, with toasted rye bread and white pepper accents leading to a robust, intense finish. The tannins are fine-grained, providing a little grip. Drink now through 2027.—M.W.

TWO HANDS

Shiraz Padthaway Sophie's Garden 2014
92 points | \$69 | 155 cases made | Red

Expressive and nuanced, with peppery, savory accents to the blackberry and plum jam notes, bolstered by fig and tobacco hints. The tight, muscular tannins provide plenty of backbone. Drink now through 2026.—M.W.

LEEUWIN

Shiraz Margaret River Siblings 2013
90 points | \$20 | 150 cases imported | Red

Juicy and fresh, with bright strawberry and cherry flavors and details of mineral, licorice, toasted anise seed and sage, singing in harmony on the long finish. Drink now through 2026.—M.W.

YALUMBA

Viognier South Australia Organic 2015
90 points | \$19 | 2,000 cases imported | White

Elegant and restrained, with a creamy texture forming the backdrop for the lush flavors of apricot, honeysuckle and mandarin orange. Gently spicy and balanced by a refreshing acidity that weaves in and out. Drink now.—M.W.

CALIFORNIA

PETER MICHAEL

Sauvignon Blanc Knights Valley L'Après-Midi 2014
93 points | \$52 | 2,810 cases made | White

Impressive and succulent, bursting with fleshy apricot and peach cobbler notes, presenting a crisp, clear line of acidity and a touch of minerality. The complexity crescendos on the long finish, with highlights of spice, dried flowers and lemon verbena. Drink now through 2020.—M.W.

OCCIDENTAL

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Occidental Station Vineyard
Cuvée Catherine 2012
93 points | \$100 | 1,035 cases made | Red

Beautifully crafted, dense and structured, with tight acidity and firm focus, this gushes with zesty wild raspberry, blackberry and savory underbrush notes that unfold to reveal layers of flavor and dimension. Drink now through 2023.—J.L.

POTT

La Carte et Le Territoire Young Inglewood Vineyard
St. Helena 2013
93 points | \$125 | 116 cases made | Red

A big, gutsy, flamboyant Merlot, with aromas of currant and dark toasty spice and deep, layered flavors of licorice, cracked pepper, cedar and herb that linger toward ripe tannins. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2025.—T.F.

RAM'S GATE

Chardonnay Carneros Green Acres Hill Vineyard 2014
92 points | \$62 | 263 cases made | White

Offers appealing vibrancy and intensity of flavor, slightly tamed by notes of smoky, toasty oak. Ends somewhat prematurely, but has room to grow, showing movement and velocity. Drink now.—J.L.

ROMBAUER

Chardonnay Carneros Home Ranch Vineyard 2014
92 points | \$70 | 125 cases made | White

A classy style that happily marries oak and fruit, with mocha scents and fresh, vibrant nectarine and tangerine flavors. Folds together nicely on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—J.L.

ROMBAUER

Chardonnay Carneros Proprietor Selection 2014
92 points | \$65 | 800 cases made | White

A mouthful of Chardonnay, with wall-to-wall flavors that run rich and deep, highlighting pear, tropical fruit, spicy oak and peachy nectarine notes. Fans of well-oaked Chardonnay will enjoy this. Drink now.—J.L.

FRANCE

BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Chevalier-Montrachet Domaine 2014
93 points | \$380 | 60 cases imported | White

The flavors here are slightly candied, with butterscotch, lemon drop, peach and pastry notes. Bright and long, with sweet baking spice notes dominating the finish for now. Shows terrific midpalate intensity, followed by a subtle aftertaste. Best from 2018 through 2028.—B.S.

BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Clos Vougeot Domaine 2013
93 points | \$200 | 50 cases imported | Red

Rich and mouthfilling, with a velvety texture carrying the cherry, raspberry, mineral and spice flavors eloquently. The refined tannins firm this up. Best from 2018 through 2030.—B.S.

MAISON LA BERTHAUDE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2012

92 points | \$63 | 390 cases imported | Red

Delivers a lush feel, with raspberry confiture, plum sauce and blackberry paste flavors, flecked with dried anise, melted licorice and sweet spice accents. Drink now through 2025.—J.M.

GUILLAUME GONNET

Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Muse 2012

92 points | \$88 | 190 cases imported | Red

Brick dust, coffee and dried bay leaf notes accent the core of dried cherry, currant and blackberry fruit. Leathery tannins underscore the finish. Best from 2018 through 2026.—J.M.

GUILLAUME GONNET

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Poète 2012

92 points | \$69 | 190 cases imported | Red

On the gusty side, with roasted espresso and ganache notes coating a core of dense plum, black currant and fig fruit flavors. Shows muscle and cut. Best from 2017 through 2025.—J.M.

CHÂTEAU GIGOGNAN

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Clos du Roi 2013

91 points | \$55 | 800 cases imported | Red

A bright, high-pitched style, with blood orange, red currant and damson plum fruit stretched out by silky tannins and carrying through an elegant finish. Drink now through 2023.—J.M.

PASCAL JOLIVET

Sancerre Le Grand Chemarin 2014

91 points | \$56 | 180 cases imported | White

Vivacious, with thyme and tarragon notes weaving through the core of lemon curd and gooseberry coulis flavors. A twinge of fleur de sel makes the finish vibrate. Drink now through 2017.—J.M.

PASCAL JOLIVET

Sancerre Le Roc 2014

91 points | \$56 | 430 cases imported | White

Pitch-perfect, with white peach and verbena notes mixed with gooseberry and lemon zest hints, all carried by a long, tarragon- and chive-accented finish. Drink now through 2017.—J.M.

DOMAINE DE MOURCHON

Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Grande Réserve 2013

91 points | \$30 | 1,500 cases imported | Red

Ripe and racy, with definition to the cassis, blackberry and raspberry fruit, supported by light bramble and anise accents and driving through the chalk-edged finish. Drink now through 2021.—J.M.

DOMAINE DU PETIT MÉTRIS

Coteaux du Layon-Chaume Les Tétuères 2014

91 points | \$50 | 42 cases imported | Dessert

Glazed mango, peach and apricot flavors are accented by hints of orange zest and ginger, backed by a warm piecrust note on the finish. Chenin Blanc. Drink now through 2022.—J.M.

DOMAINE DELAPORTE

Sancerre Silex 2014

90 points | \$46 | 3,333 cases made | White

Shows good zip, with tarragon and chive notes giving this a tangy, herb-accented feel, while lemon curd and straw notes play out in the background. Drink now through 2017.—J.M.

DOMAINE DE MOURCHON

Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Tradition 2013

90 points | \$20 | 2,000 cases imported | Red

Shows solid depth and flesh for the vintage, with a hint of singed iron running amid the dark plum and blackberry fruit. Dark anise and bay accents line the finish. Drink now through 2019.—J.M.

WASHINGTON

CAYUSE

Syrah Walla Walla Valley Armada Vineyard 2012

93 points | \$90 | 498 cases made | Red

Polished and round, featuring blackberry and cherry flavors layered with savory overtones of black tea and tar. Picks up a black olive note as the finish lingers. Drink now through 2022.—H.S.

CAYUSE

Syrah Walla Walla Valley En Chamberlin Vineyard 2013

93 points | \$80 | 340 cases made | Red

Generous, round and expressive, open-textured and distinctive, with smoky dried blueberry and tapenade flavors, balancing harmoniously on the long finish. Drink now through 2023.—H.S.

FORCE MAJEURE

Ciel Du Cheval Vineyard Collaboration Series III

Red Mountain 2013

93 points | \$65 | 200 cases made | Red

Firm and chewy, bursting with cherry, plum and smoked meat flavors that dance exuberantly into a long and expressive finish. Has presence and style. Syrah. Best from 2018 through 2023.—H.S.

REYNVAAN

Syrah Walla Walla Valley Foothills Reserve

Foothills In The Sun Vineyard 2013

93 points | \$70 | 300 cases made | Red

Strikes a balance between rich cherry, red plum and pear skin flavors, accented by savory notes of tobacco, tea leaf and black olive. Comes together seamlessly. Drink now through 2025.—H.S.

DUNHAM MACLACHLAN

Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley

Pursued By Bear 2012

92 points | \$65 | 397 cases made | Red

Firm, dense and expressive, with layers of blueberry, currant, cedar and savory spice coming together seamlessly against polished tannins. The finish sails on. Best from 2017 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.

NO GIRLS

Syrah Walla Walla Valley La Paciencia Vineyard 2012

96 points | \$80 | 298 cases made | Red

Complex and evocative plum, tar, black olive and jasmine flavors ride proudly over a refined structure that feels almost weightless. A rich wine that offers finesse and an endless finish. Taut, but ends with an open feel. Drink now through 2022. *From Washington.*—H.S.

PAUL HOBBS

Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Beckstoffer

To Kalon Vineyard 2012

94 points | \$425 | 988 cases made | Red

A seamless effort, rich and layered, with generous tiers of red and black fruits, spice and floral scents and a base of loamy earth-scented tannins. The finish offers cascading olive, herb and savory details that linger and gain depth while retaining subtlety. Drink now through 2028. *From California.*—J.L.

ORIN SWIFT

Machete California 2014

94 points | \$48 | 15,500 cases made | Red

Generous and expressive, big and brawny, offering a mouthful of tannins but also brimming with flavors and aromas, including Earl Grey tea, dark chocolate, dried violet and toasted gingerbread. Rich notes of plum and black cherry are balanced by forest floor and earthy accents, lingering on the long finish. Petite Sirah, Syrah and Grenache. Drink now through 2030. *From California.*—M.W.

TURLEY

Petite Syrah Howell Mountain Rattlesnake Ridge 2014

94 points | \$44 | 550 cases made | Red

Dense, mouthcoating tannins offer lovely perfumed notes of violet and dried lavender that elevate the dark, brooding core of plum and huckleberry. Hints of black walnut and matcha green tea linger on the velvety, thick, expressive finish. Drink now through 2030. *From California.*—M.W.

BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Corton-Charlemagne Domaine 2014

93 points | \$170 | 175 cases imported | White

Well-marked by new oak, along with lemon, white peach and mineral flavors, this gets more integrated as the lively acidity drives the long aftertaste. Give this six months to a year to really sing. Best from 2017 through 2022. *From France.*—B.S.

TWO HANDS

Shiraz Clare Valley Samantha's Garden 2014

93 points | \$69 | 620 cases made | Red

Elegant, spicy and rich, with walnut bread, toffee and fennel notes that are polished and refined, with blueberry and blackberry fruit flavors. Really takes off on the finish, where everything sings in harmony. Drink now through 2030. *From Australia.*—M.W.

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

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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