

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

A DUO OF SCINTILLATING REDS LEADS AN IMPRESSIVE PACK of new wines from Argentina, Australia, California, France and Italy in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, offering delectable examples of Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Malbec and more to please every palate. This is a report of wines that have most excited our editors in recent tastings.

Rhône Valley powerhouses Château de Beaucastel and Jean-Luc Colombo go toe-to-toe with vibrant Australian bottlings from Two Hands and Henschke. Bold Argentine releases from Alta Vista and Viña Cobos win marks for fruit and flavor, as do Piedmont delights from Gaja and Pio Cesare. 2013 Napa Cabernet Sauvignons continue to come on strong, with notable showings from Hall, Paul Hobbs, PlumpJack and Peter Michael. The latest bottling of Opus One is here. Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.

ARGENTINA

ALTA VISTA

Malbec Luján de Cuyo Serenade 2013

94 points | \$48 | 150 cases imported | Red

Very concentrated and lushly spiced, this is filled with pure, intense flavors of blackberry, boysenberry and dark plum. Creamy midpalate, featuring a finish loaded with dark chocolate and Asian spice notes. Drink now through 2022. *From Argentina.—K.M.*

VIÑA COBOS

Cabernet Sauvignon Luján de Cuyo Bramare Marchiori Vineyard 2013

93 points | \$95 | 150 cases imported | Red

A plush red, with an underlying sense of power to the concentrated and richly spiced flavors of dark plum, boysenberry and dried ginger. Notes of dried meat and soy emerge on the elegant finish. Drink now through 2024.—*K.M.*

TRAPICHE

Malbec Uco Valley Finca Orellana 2012

93 points | \$55 | 100 cases imported | Red

A lithe, juicy and powerfully fruity red, with concentrated flavors of boysenberry, crushed red plum and red currant, backed by crisp acidity. The creamy finish lingers with notes of hot stone, cedar and green olive. Drink now through 2022.—*K.M.*

FAMILIA ZUCCARDI

Finca Canal Uco Paraje Altamira Uco Valley 2013

93 points | \$120 | 28 cases imported | Red

Very plush and richly fruity, with open-textured flavors of raspberry, tart and roasted plum, supported by medium-grained tannins. Suave, with minerally and peppery accents on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*K.M.*

ALTA VISTA

Malbec Luján de Cuyo Alizarine 2013

92 points | \$48 | 150 cases imported | Red

Muscular, with plenty of juiciness to the dark plum, brandied cherry and dark currant flavors. Black olive and porcino notes show midpalate. The finish lingers with smoke and spice accents. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

BODEGA NORTON

Malbec Agrelo Lote A-112 2012

92 points | \$35 | 500 cases imported | Red

Suave and rich, with ripe flavors of dark plum, cherry tart and dried blackberry that feature a lush creaminess. Shows ample cocoa powder and smoky details on the fresh, pure finish. Drink now through 2021.—*K.M.*

KAIKEN

Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Ultra 2014
91 points | \$25 | 1500 cases imported | Red

A ripe and powerful red, with concentrated flavors of dark cherry, smoke, tart and Asian spice that are loaded with chocolate and fresh-ground coffee notes. Creamy and lush on the rich finish. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

AUSTRALIA

JAMSHEED

Syrah Beechworth 2014
94 points | \$60 | 56 cases imported | Red

Juicy and vibrant, featuring a mouthwatering mix of huckleberry, wild blueberry and boysenberry flavors at the core. Features plush, velvety tannins. Drink now through 2026.—*M.W.*

TWO HANDS

Shiraz Barossa Valley Kraehe House Block Single Vineyard Neldner Road Maranaga 2013
94 points | \$125 | 126 cases made | Red

Bursting with wild berry and violet notes, this is vibrant and juicy, accented by fresh herb, black tea, spice and earth details. The tannins are fine-grained. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

PENFOLDS

Shiraz Barossa Valley RWT 2013
93 points | \$150 | 312 cases imported | Red

Bold and dense, with sink-your-teeth-into-them tannins and a wallop of flavors, offering cherry and berry notes and plenty of persistence. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

CALIFORNIA

ALPHA OMEGA

Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Beckstoffer Dr. Crane 2013
93 points | \$235 | 900 cases made | Red

Sleek and refined, rich and layered, with a supple, tapered texture and a long, graceful mix of blackberry and black licorice flavors, shaded by cedary oak. Drink now through 2030.—*J.L.*

DALLA VALLE

Maya Napa Valley 2013
93 points | \$425 | 750 cases made | Red

This captures a dense mix of gravelly earth, extracted dark berry, cedar, dried herb, anise and crushed rock notes. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2020 through 2032.—*J.L.*

HALL

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Kathryn Hall 2013
93 points | \$165 | 5,844 cases made | Red

Offering aromas of opulent blackberry, plum and currant, this is floral, tightly focused and delivers ample fruit intensity and purity on the palate. Drink now through 2030.—*J.L.*

PAUL HOBBS

Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2013
93 points | \$475 | 638 cases made | Red

Young and powerful, with wall-to-wall flavors that are deeply extracted and firmly tannic, centered on gutsy dark berry, currant, anise, cigar box and cedar. Best from 2020 through 2034.—*J.L.*

HUNDRED ACRE

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Few and Far Between Vineyard 2013
93 points | \$500 | 450 cases made | Red

Plump and juicy, with ripe plum, cherry and blueberry flavors. The dense backbone of oak, herb and tannins gives this a sense of power, as well as finesse. Drink now through 2032.—*J.L.*

JOHN ANTHONY

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Coombsville Vineyard 2013
93 points | \$135 | 242 cases made | Red

Deliciously plump and juicy, with zesty blackberry, wild berry, currant, plum and savory dried herb notes. Very complete and deftly balanced. Drink now through 2028.—*J.L.*

PETER MICHAEL

Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Au Paradis 2013
93 points | \$195 | 1,650 cases made | Red

Balanced and proportioned, rich without being weighty, this is centered on dusty blackberry, crushed rock and loamy earth notes. Gains depth and nuance. Drink now through 2032.—*J.L.*

PLUMPJACK

Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville McWilliams Oakville Vineyard Reserve 2013
93 points | \$300 | 700 cases made | Red

A wine of size and proportion, this is very dense, rich and focused, with an intense beam of lively, gravel-laced currant, blackberry, anise, sage and cedar flavors. Best from 2020 through 2033.—*J.L.*

REALM

The Absurd Napa Valley 2013
93 points | \$300 | 200 cases made | Red

Smoky oak provides the framework, with riveting blackberry, wild berry, black cherry and plum flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030.—*J.L.*

WALLIS FAMILY ESTATE

Cabernet Sauvignon Diamond Mountain District Seraphim 2013
93 points | \$175 | 250 cases made | Red

A massive Cabernet that shows finesse, this is a powerful, bare-fisted effort, with extracted currant, blackberry, licorice, dusty, cedary oak and black licorice flavors. Drink now through 2030.—*J.L.*

OPUS ONE

Napa Valley 2013

92 points | \$285 | 26,400 cases made | Red

Seductive and complex, with mocha, currant, plum, licorice, spice and cedary oak flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Drink now through 2028.—*J.L.*

FRANCE

Rhône

JEAN-LUC COLOMBO

Cornas La Louvée 2014

94 points | \$104 | 350 cases made | Red

Solidly built, with a beautifully ripe core of blueberry, plum and blackberry paste flavors pumping along, inlaid with ample charcoal and bay leaf notes. Best from 2018 through 2029.—*J.M.*

JEAN-LUC COLOMBO

Cornas Les Ruchets 2014

94 points | \$105 | 800 cases made | Red

Fleshy and layered, with crushed blueberry, açai berry and plum flavors that have melded together, carried by a dense but rounded structure. Best from 2018 through 2029.—*J.M.*

EQUIS

Cornas 2013

94 points | \$67 | 10 cases imported | Red

Well-stuffed, featuring dark fig, blackberry and black currant fruit flavors melding with charcoal and roasted bay leaf accents. The long finish has a loamy edge. Best from 2017 through 2028.—*J.M.*

GUILLAUME GILLES

Cornas 2013

94 points | \$70 | 70 cases made | Red

This is intensely fruited, featuring blueberry reduction and warm plum sauce notes carried by loamy tannins. Dense through the finish. Best from 2018 through 2030.—*J.M.*

NICOLAS SERRETTE

Cornas Henri 2013

94 points | \$40 | 50 cases made | Red

Intense, with a serious core of raspberry, bitter plum and dark currant fruit threaded with ample bramble, cocoa powder and loam notes. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*J.M.*

NICOLAS SERRETTE

Cornas Patou 2013

94 points | \$48 | 417 cases made | Red

This starts with beautiful pepper, singed chestnut leaf and sanguine notes, giving way slowly to a sturdy core of red currant and bitter plum fruit. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE ST.-PRÉFERT

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Collection Charles Giraud 2014

94 points | \$87 | 50 cases imported | Red

Solidly dense for the vintage, with a core of fig and blackberry fruit that has melded with ample pepper, tobacco and lavender notes. This has plenty in reserve. Best from 2017 through 2029.—*J.M.*

ITALY

ODDERO

Barbaresco Gallina 2013

94 points | \$60 | 400 cases imported | Red

An elegant, supple style, featuring cherry, strawberry, floral and subtle tar flavors. The tannins flex their muscles on the finish. Balanced and long. Best from 2019 through 2033.—*B.S.*

CASCINA ADELAIDE

Barolo Fossati 2012

93 points | \$125 | 600 cases imported | Red

A modern style, with notes of vanilla and spice shading cherry, berry, menthol and earth flavors. Elegant and taut, showing dense tannins on the firm finish. Best from 2018 through 2032.—*B.S.*

PIO CESARE

Barbaresco Il Bricco 2012

93 points | \$115 | 13 cases imported | Red

Spicy, warm and dense, with a firm structure lending austerity. Cherry, strawberry, tobacco and earth notes join together on the tight and vibrant finish. Best from 2019 through 2032.—*B.S.*

GAJA

Barbaresco 2013

93 points | \$240 | 750 cases imported | Red

Cherry, strawberry, cinnamon, peony and chalky flavors mingle in this aromatic red. Lean and firm, with a meaty element, this has all the elements in place. Best from 2019 through 2032.—*B.S.*

PECCHENINO

Barolo Le Coste di Monforte 2012

93 points | \$72 | 483 cases made | Red

Cherry, rose, licorice and tar aromas and flavors are the hallmarks of this rich, complex red. Tightens up on the long finish, where cherry and spice notes reign. Best from 2019 through 2033.—*B.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.

CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Hommage à Jacques Perrin 2012
96 points | \$617 | 500 cases made | Red

Serious, with dark fig, black currant and blackberry confiture notes forming a large-scale core, while licorice snap, Turkish coffee and pastis details lend an expansive feel. The long, dense finish has a brooding personality now, with a warm cast-iron note echoing. Should be a stunner when it reaches its peak. Best from 2019 through 2032. *From France.—J.M.*

HENSCHKE

Hill Of Grace Vineyard Eden Valley 2010
96 points | \$813 | 80 cases imported | Red

Elegant, expressive and wonderfully complex. Bergamot, sandalwood and black walnut liqueur notes add an aromatic complexity to the sleek, polished blackberry flavors. Shows a mix of power and finesse, with an epic finish. Drink now through 2032. *From Australia.—M.W.*

DOMAINE BOIS DE BOURSAN

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée des Felix 2012
95 points | \$88 | 100 cases imported | Red

This decidedly old-school version pumps out a rugged core of black currant, blackberry and bitter plum fruit flavors, infused with brick dust, chestnut and bay leaf notes. The long finish has the tang of a great saucisson sec, thus begging for that perfect pairing. A wine with a track record of aging very, very well. Best from 2017 through 2035. *From France.—J.M.*

TWO HANDS

Shiraz Barossa Valley Secret Block Single Vineyard
Wildlife Road Moppa Hills 2013
95 points | \$125 | 94 cases made | Red

Appealingly dense and fleshy, with generous blueberry and blackberry flavors wrapped in accents of licorice, dark chocolate and gingerbread. The finish is expansive, long and powerful. Drink now through 2030. *From Australia.—M.W.*

TWO HANDS

Shiraz Clare Valley Samantha's Garden 2013
95 points | \$65 | 260 cases made | Red

The chocolate-covered cherry flavors are bright and bold, with plush tannins, accents of toasted rye bread and chai tea, and a whiff of fresh mint. Seamless and powerful, particularly on the finish. Drink now through 2030. *From Australia.—M.W.*

PAUL HOBBS

Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Beckstoffer Las Piedras
Vineyard 2013
94 points | \$250 | 836 cases made | Red

Refreshingly taut, dense and vibrant, this is well-built, with a mix of dark berry, currant, plum and blueberry, broadening midpalate and ending with a long, lingering aftertaste where the fine-grained tannins capture and hold the flavors. Drink now through 2032. *From California.—J.L.*

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 Senior editor, 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: Australia,
California, New Zealand

Alison Napjus Senior editor and tasting director, 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 Sciaretta 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