

# Wine Spectator Insider

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**MANY OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GRAPES**—Pinot Noir, Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, Syrah and more—appear in superlative form in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, with selections from California, France and Italy, up to 97 points. These represent some of the most exciting discoveries recently made by our editors in their tastings.

Super Tuscans are led by the towering Ornellaia Masseto, with Jacopo Biondi-Santi and Martini di Cigala presenting prestige bottlings as well. In California, find expressive Pinots from De Loach, Belle Glos, Bernardus and Paul Hobbs, while French selections range from exquisite *grand cru* white Burgundy to value Languedoc winners. Five wines here come in at under \$30 and 90-plus points, including a 93-point red for just \$17. Don't miss the six Hot Wines on page 4.

## CALIFORNIA Pinot Noir

### BELLE GLOS

Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley Clark & Telephone 2012  
**92 points | \$44 | 4,757 cases made | Red**

A rich, gutsy, extracted style, with a compelling mix of power and finesse, offering explosive dark berry, floral, spice and espresso notes that are full-bodied and persistent. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

### LEA

Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Mormann Vineyard  
Pommard Clone 2012  
**92 points | \$38 | 43 cases made | Red**

Shows the ripest, richest flavors of the new Leas, centered on dense red and dark berry flavors that are pure, intense and persistent. Long on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

### WAYFARER

Pinot Noir Fort Ross-Seaview Golden Mean 2012  
**92 points | \$120 | 280 cases made | Red**

The fresh, pure, vivid aromas of ripe plum, raspberry and blackberry give this a complex flavor profile, framed by acidity and tannins. Gains length, finesse and grace on a long finish, punctuated by grainy tannins. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

### BERNARDUS

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2012  
**91 points | \$65 | 418 cases made | Red**

Offers an expansive range of flavors, with red berry, rhubarb, raspberry and red plum notes. Gains depth and dimension, fanning out on the finish, where the tannins are ripe and clinging. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

### HANDLEY

Pinot Noir Anderson Valley RSM Vineyard 2010  
**91 points | \$52 | 293 cases made | Red**

Rich and well-built, this is centered on pure blackberry, forest floor, anise, spice and floral scents. Firm, supple tannins give the licorice-laced flavors traction and length. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

### PAUL HOBBS

Pinot Noir Napa Valley Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2012  
**91 points | \$75 | 1,061 cases made | Red**

Aromas of dried flowers, spice and lavender mix with rich dried berry and sage flavors, balanced by a savory, graceful blackberry note on the lingering finish. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

### VALDEZ FAMILY

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Valdez Vineyards 2011  
**91 points | \$45 | 150 cases made | Red**

Rich and robust, a touch rustic and spicy, with a core of racy dark berry, cedar, crushed rock, dried herb and loamy earth. The tannins give the flavors traction. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

# FRANCE

## Burgundy Côte de Beaune / White

### MARIUS DELARCHE

Corton-Charlemagne 2011

**93 points | \$144 | 15 cases imported | White**

The oak is well-integrated into this racy, harmonious white. Peach, apple, lemon and spice flavors abound while this remains taut and focused through the lingering finish. Best from 2016 through 2024.—*B.S.*

### LOUIS LATOUR

Chevalier-Montrachet Les Demoiselles 2011

**93 points | \$380 | 250 cases made | White**

A plush, spicy white, whose peach, melon, honey and citrus flavors are accented by baking spices. Viscous in texture, this leaves a honey- and spice-tinged finish. Slightly tannic in the end. Best from 2017 through 2027.—*B.S.*

### MISCHIEF & MAYHEM

Puligny-Montrachet Les Pucelles 2011

**93 points | \$200 | 50 cases made | White**

Laden with mineral elements, this white is dense and powerful. White flower, lime, apple, spice and stone flavors prevail as this kicks into overdrive on the finish. Best from 2016 through 2025.—*B.S.*

### BALLOT-MILLOT & FILS

Meursault Genevrières 2011

**92 points | \$150 | 10 cases imported | White**

Shows density and drive, with apple, lemon, butterscotch and honey flavors meshing with the vivid acidity. The elements come together on the citrus- and spice-infused aftertaste. Best from 2016 through 2025.—*B.S.*

### ANTONIN GUYON

Puligny-Montrachet Les Pucelles 2011

**92 points | \$160 | 30 cases imported | White**

Beeswax and lanolin notes accent the lime, peach and mineral flavors. This is concentrated, almost oily in texture, finishing with a tactile sensation and a long aftertaste. Best from 2016 through 2025.—*B.S.*

### DOMAINE LEFLAIVE

Meursault Sous le Dos d'Ane 2011

**92 points | \$145 | 248 cases imported | White**

The peach, apple and lemon flavors are well-integrated with spicy oak in this sleek, supple white. Harmonious and refreshing, with spice notes echoing on the lingering finish. Best from 2015 through 2024.—*B.S.*

### OLIVIER LEFLAIVE

Meursault Poruzots 2012

**92 points | \$133 | 40 cases imported | White**

This ripe white offers lemon, apple, butterscotch, smoke and toast flavors. Tangy and vibrant, gaining suppleness with air. The long finish echoes fruit and spice details. Best from 2016 through 2024.—*B.S.*

### MISCHIEF & MAYHEM

Meursault Les Charmes 2011

**92 points | \$150 | 75 cases made | White**

The complex aromas and flavors of nut oil, sweet corn, vanilla, clove, butterscotch, apple and lime are corralled by the bright acidity in this graceful, intense white. Balanced and long, picking up a mineral element. Best from 2016 through 2024.—*B.S.*

### PAUL PILLOT

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Mazures 2011

**92 points | \$86 | 25 cases imported | White**

This is creamy, offset by bright acidity, evoking aromas and flavors of peach, melon, lemon and mineral. The stony essence continues through the lingering finish. Best from 2016 through 2024.—*B.S.*

# FRANCE

## Languedoc-Roussillon / Red

### DOMAINE GARDIÉS

Côtes du Roussillon-Villages La Torre 2011

**93 points | \$84 | 56 cases imported | Red**

A ripe and rich red from Southern France that features well-sculpted flavors of dark plum, raspberry and cherry tart that lengthen out pleasantly. Best from 2016 through 2021.—*K.M.*

### ABBAYE SYLVA PLANA

Faugères Le Songe de l'Abbé 2011

**91 points | \$39 | 350 cases imported | Red**

Well-integrated, with plenty of lift to the lively dark plum, boysenberry, roasted beef and dark fig flavors. Features intense chocolate and espresso notes midpalate. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

### CHÂTEAU FARDEL-LAURENS

Faugères L'Ardoise 2012

**90 points | \$16 | 100 cases imported | Red**

Rich, meaty aromas and flavors are joined by unctuous notes of blackberry, mint, tar and slate. Complex yet pure-tasting, with a lush finish of spice and chocolate. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

### CHÂTEAU FESTIANO

Minervois 2011

**90 points | \$17 | 500 cases imported | Red**

Juicy and ripe, with hints of richness and elegance to the concentrated dark plum, blackberry and dark currant flavors. Pepper and graphite notes show midpalate. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

# FRANCE

## Rhône

### M. CHAPOUTIER

Hermitage White Chante-Alouette 2012

**93 points | \$100 | 1,200 cases imported | White**

Salted butter, chamomile, lemon rind and white peach notes course along, inlaid with honeysuckle and verbena hints. Mineral-driven finish. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

### LUCIEN & ANDRÉ BRUNEL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Les Cailloux 2013

**92 points | \$65 | 200 cases imported | White**

Shows a rounded, plump feel, with creamy-edged yellow apple, melon and heather notes backed by hints of brioche and salted butter on the finish. Drink now through 2015.—*J.M.*

### CHÂTEAU MAUCOIL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape L'Esprit 2010

**92 points | \$116 | 100 cases imported | Red**

A traditional version, with licorice snap, bramble, tobacco and warm pebble notes working with the raspberry pâte de fruit and blackberry coulis flavors. Drink now through 2021.—*J.M.*

### CHÂTEAU MAUCOIL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Privilège 2010

**91 points | \$75 | 200 cases imported | Red**

Solid, with grippy raspberry pâte de fruit, black licorice, bramble and fruitcake notes that give way to a pebbly feel on the finish. Still has some unwinding to do. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

### CHÂTEAU LA NERTHE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2013

**91 points | \$59 | 300 cases imported | White**

Shows good zip, with a stony spine driving through the core of peach, heather, citrus and almond notes. Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Clairette and Bourboulenc. Drink now through 2018.—*J.M.*

### LE VIEUX DONJON

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2013

**91 points | \$65 | 120 cases made | White**

Peach, salted butter, blanched almond and citrus oil notes are tightly woven here, with a quinine edge adding cut and drive to the finish. Not big, but fresh. Drink now through 2016.—*J.M.*

### LAVAU

Gigondas 2012

**90 points | \$26 | 15,000 cases imported | Red**

Features a dark profile, with steeped plum, black licorice and graphite notes framed by Lapsang souchong tea and carrying through a fleshy, well-defined finish. Drink now through 2017.—*J.M.*

# ITALY

## Toscana

### IL MOLINO DI GRACE

Toscana Gratus 2008

**93 points | \$65 | 1,000 cases made | Red**

Beginning to exhibit some mature aromas of mushroom, underbrush, incense and decaying cherry and berry fruit, this is balanced and vibrant. Sangiovese. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

### POGGIO BONELLI

Toscana Poggiassai 2010

**93 points | \$35 | 250 cases imported | Red**

A lovely expression of black currant, black cherry, violet, licorice and spice aromas and flavors herald this harmonious red. Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2024.—*B.S.*

### VECCHIA CANTINA DI MONTEPULCIANO

Toscana Orbaio Redi Argo et Non Briareo 2009

**93 points | \$17 | 344 cases imported | Red**

Mature aromas of licorice, leather, black currant and spice are expressive. Concentrated, balanced and complex. Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

### ARCANUM

Toscana Valadorna 2008

**92 points | \$80 | 604 cases imported | Red**

Beautiful balance sets the stage for the cherry, black currant and spice flavors. Lively in structure, capped by ripe, fine-grained tannins. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

### JACOPO BIONDI-SANTI

Toscana Schidione 2004

**92 points | \$350 | 500 cases made | Red**

A mix of rosemary, sage, lavender, licorice, cherry and saline flavors highlight this mature red. Balanced and elegant. Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

### CANNETO

Toscana Filippone 2010

**92 points | \$35 | 150 cases imported | Red**

The black cherry and plum notes are shaded by cedar, green olive and wild herb accents. Firm yet harmonious, with a lean character. Sangiovese and Merlot. Best from 2016 through 2025.—*B.S.*

### CP

Sangiovese Toscana 2010

**92 points | \$16 | 2,000 cases made | Red**

A vibrant center of energy drives the strawberry and cherry flavors in this intense, elegant red. The tannins are sinewy, yet this remains balanced and lingering. Drink now through 2022.—*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.

## TENUTA DELL'ORNELLAIA

Toscana Masseto 2011

**97 points | \$550 | 360 cases imported | Red**

Opulent and expressive, opening with the coffee and vanilla aromas that lead to sweet plum and black cherry flavors. Leather, tobacco and iron notes contribute to the complexity. Lingers with a powerful, structured finish. Merlot. Best from 2017 through 2033. *From Italy.—B.S.*

## DOMAINE FAIVELEY

Corton-Charlemagne 2012

**94 points | \$400 | 40 cases imported | White**

Aromas of lemon cake, white flowers and sweet spices lead to lime, apple and hazelnut flavors. Elegant, intense and well-balanced. Almost seamless now, but should improve with age. Best from 2016 through 2026. *From France.—B.S.*

## DOMAINE GARDIÉS

Côtes du Roussillon-Villages Les Falaises 2011

**94 points | \$84 | 56 cases imported | Red**

Polished, with a concentrated core of plum, kirsch and dark cherry flavors, accented by Asian spice and rich, meaty notes. The medium-grained tannins provide a refined touch, complemented by plenty of fresh acidity. The long, lush finish is filled with dark chocolate and spice details. Drink now through 2024. *From France.—K.M.*

## MARTINI DI CIGALA

Merlot Toscana San Giusto a Rentennano La Ricolma 2011

**94 points | \$90 | 50 cases imported | Red**

A cool reserve lends a fresh feel to the pure cherry and blackberry flavors in this dense red. Taut, focused and well-buttressed by oak, resulting in a firm layer of tannins on the finish. The overall impression is one of balance and gracefulness. Best from 2017 through 2032. *From Italy.—B.S.*

## ROCCA DI MONTEGROSSI

Toscana Geremia 2010

**94 points | \$50 | 200 cases imported | Red**

Dark, concentrated and tannic, this red is extracted, with a core of sweet fruit and pure black cherry and blackberry flavors that linger on the tough finish. Salty aftertaste. For fans of the style. Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2017 through 2030. *From Italy.—B.S.*

## DE LOACH

Pinot Noir Mendocino County Masút Vineyard

Vineyard Designate 2010

**93 points | \$45 | 104 cases made | Red**

Beautifully crafted, rich, smooth and supple, with a pretty array of rich black cherry, plum and raspberry fruit. Deftly balanced and nuanced, ending with subtle spice accents and fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2022. *From California.—J.L.*

## WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

### The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

*Wine Spectator's* tasting staff includes 17 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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**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