

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

BREAKOUT BOTTLINGS FROM THE WORLD'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS REGIONS fill this week's *Wine Spectator Insider* to the brim, with wines from California, Oregon and France, up to 99 points. This is a report of the most exciting wines our editors have discovered in the tasting room in recent weeks.

Napa Cabernets from top-of-the-line producers such as Revana, Paul Hobbs and Raymond deliver opulent fruit and deep, rich flavors. Beguiling Oregon Pinots from Beaux Frères and Bergström impress with harmony and elegance. But a world-beating collection of Rhône reds from Châteauneuf-du-Pape breaks away from the pack, showcasing sumptuous fruit and years of ageability. The latest releases of Caymus' Special Selection and Peter Michael's Au Paradis are here. An incredible 18 wines scored a classic 95 points or more.

CALIFORNIA Cabernet Sauvignon

REVANA

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2014
96 points | \$165 | 1,500 cases made | Red

A thrilling effort, from the opening vanilla bean scents to the pure, rich and deep core of blackberry, currant and black licorice flavors. This folds in espresso and cedar notes amid a long, persistent finish. Best from 2019 through 2038.—J.L.

PAUL HOBBS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2014
95 points | \$500 | 840 cases made | Red

Pure and rich, with an intense core of blackberry, boysenberry, black licorice, crushed rock and seductive spicy, mocha-laced oak. This zooms, glides, twists and turns, offering a fascinating array of flavors and textures. Best from 2020 through 2038.—J.L.

REVANA

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Terroir Series 2014
95 points | \$105 | 1,300 cases made | Red

Pure, rich, dense and driven by extracted blackberry, boysenberry, licorice, currant, cedar and cigar box nuances. Most impressive for the direct and authoritative presence. Best from 2020 through 2038.—J.L.

VINEYARD 7 & 8

Cabernet Sauvignon Spring Mountain District Estate 2014
95 points | \$185 | 650 cases made | Red

Pure and rich, with a deep, concentrated core of extracted blackberry, currant, black licorice, dusty, loamy earth, graphite, cedar and espresso flavors. Ends long, smooth and well-defined. Drink now through 2030.—J.L.

RAYMOND

Cabernet Sauvignon Calistoga District Collection 2014
94 points | \$95 | 336 cases made | Red

Despite being tightly wound, this gushes with fresh, lively dark berry, sage, graphite, cedar and crushed rock flavors before substantial tannins close in. Should be long-lived. Best from 2021 through 2034.—J.L.

BERINGER

Cabernet Sauvignon Knights Valley Reserve 2014
93 points | \$70 | 3,500 cases made | Red

Deep, rich and generous, with layers of dark berry, currant, plum and raspberry flavors, touches of black licorice and spicy, floral scents. Notably elegant and refined for a wine of such intensity. Drink now through 2032.—J.L.

DIAMOND CREEK

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Red Rock Terrace 2014
93 points | \$225 | 508 cases made | Red

Deftly balanced and well-proportioned, with a mix of loamy earth, dried dark berry, licorice, sage, cedar and crushed rock flavors. All the elements remain prominent throughout. Best from 2020 through 2032.—*J.L.*

PAUL HOBBS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard 2014
93 points | \$265 | 1,244 cases made | Red

Though rich and full-flavored, this shows a seam of elegance and finesse that complements the dark berry, loamy, dusty earth and herb notes, with touches of gravel and oak. A mouthful of complexity. Best from 2019 through 2032.—*J.L.*

PAUL HOBBS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer Las Piedras Vineyard 2014
93 points | \$300 | 559 cases made | Red

A rich, juicy, pure expression of blackberry, plum, currant and spice flavors, maintaining a supple tenderness along with a firm backbone. Deceptively approachable now, but better to cellar for a few years. Best from 2020 through 2038.—*J.L.*

PETER MICHAEL

Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Au Paradis 2014
93 points | \$215 | 2,300 cases made | Red

Though intense and assertive, there's a charming suppleness to the texture, letting the flavors of dark berry, anise, baking spices and mocha glide along. Most impressive for the intensity and persistence on the finish. Best from 2020 through 2038.—*J.L.*

CHATEAU MONTELENA

Cabernet Sauvignon Calistoga The Montelena Estate 2013
92 points | \$160 | NA cases made | Red

Aromatically compelling, this unfolds to reveal layers of dark berry, chalky earth, sage, tobacco and cedar flavors before clamping down tightly on the finish, yet the fruit pushes through. Best from 2021 through 2033.—*J.L.*

PAUL HOBBS

Cabernet Sauvignon Coombsville Nathan Coombs Estate 2014
92 points | \$400 | 499 cases made | Red

Aromas of dark berry, cherry, rose and plum firm quickly, giving the tannins muscular flex that provides the framework around a dense core of licorice-scented flavors. Best from 2020 through 2034.—*J.L.*

CAYMUS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Special Selection 2014
91 points | \$180 | 25,964 cases made | Red

Pure and rich, well-centered on melted black licorice, spice, cedar and dark berry flavors. Deep and complex, if short on finesse and grace, ending with musclebound tannins. Drink now through 2028.—*J.L.*

MOUNT EDEN VINEYARDS

Cabernet Sauvignon Santa Cruz Mountains 2013
91 points | \$70 | 1,198 cases made | Red

Firmly built, with structure, focus and density, this offers a mix of taut dark berry, graphite, loamy earth, crushed rock and dried herb. A wine apart from the pack. Best from 2021 through 2035.—*J.L.*

RIDGE

Cabernet Sauvignon Santa Cruz Mountains Estate 2014
91 points | \$60 | 6,000 cases made | Red

Made in a style that demands patience and cellaring, this is taut, firm, dense and sturdy. Not showing much now, but like good Bordeaux, this is built to age. Best from 2020 through 2034.—*J.L.*

FRANCE

Rhône / Châteauneuf-du-Pape

CHÂTEAU DE VAUDIEU

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Amiral G. 2015
96 points | \$115 | 50 cases imported | Red

Features a solid core of lightly steeped kirsch, black cherry and raspberry fruit, backed by singed juniper and apple wood notes that lend aromatic and textural contrast. Tobacco, shiso leaf and blood orange details score the finish, giving this a mouthwatering profile. Best from 2020 through 2040.—*J.M.*

CHÂTEAU DE VAUDIEU

Châteauneuf-du-Pape L'Avenue 2015
96 points | \$115 | 50 cases imported | Red

Very silky in feel, with beguiling rooibos tea, bergamot and blood orange accents sitting atop the large core of cassis and raspberry pâte de fruit. Everything is in lockstep through the finish, where buried minerality adds the final touch. Best from 2020 through 2035.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE FERRANDO

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Colombis 2015
95 points | \$55 | 300 cases imported | Red

Offers gorgeous mouthfeel, with very fine-grained tannins thoroughly embedded into the core of crushed blackberry, raspberry puree and plum pâte de fruit flavors. Mouthwatering licorice snap, black tea and graphite notes drive the finish, adding serious length and depth. Integrated enough to be tempting now, but this will deliver much more after cellaring. Best from 2020 through 2040.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Chaupin 2015
95 points | \$70 | 392 cases imported | Red

Pretty, with cassis and warm raspberry puree notes carried by silky but persistent structure, while rooibos tea, blood orange and incense accents fill in the background. The streamlined finish pulls everything together, letting the silky, perfumy feel sail on. Best from 2020 through 2040.—*J.M.*

ROGER SABON & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prestige 2015
95 points | \$70 | 224 cases imported | Red

Intense, with a delicious core of warm raspberry pâte de fruit, cassis and linzer torte flavors wrapped in licorice and singed alder notes. The long finish has some heft but stays racy and driven overall, showing a flash of iron through the finish. Well-built. Best from 2020 through 2035.—*J.M.*

CHÂTEAU DE VAUDIEU

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Val de Dieu 2015
95 points | \$90 | 100 cases imported | Red

This has the fleshy, pure and driven vintage profile of cassis and raspberry running right down the middle, with an amped-up finish of roasted apple wood, graphite and ganache notes providing a thumping bass line. Needs a little more time to knit fully, but that won't be a problem. Best from 2020 through 2040.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE ST.-PRÉFERT

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015
94 points | \$44 | 3,300 cases imported | Red

Energetic, with a big ball of kirsch wound tightly with licorice, graphite and raspberry coulis notes. Shows lots of bright spice accents through the finish, which is carried by finely beaded acidity. Best from 2020 through 2035.—*J.M.*

CHÂTEAU DE VAUDIEU

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015
94 points | \$55 | 392 cases imported | Red

Richly layered, with hedonistic fig, boysenberry and raspberry confiture flavors that roll over each other while mouthwatering anise, fruitcake and black tea notes chase from behind. Best from 2020 through 2040.—*J.M.*

LES VINS DE VIENNE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Otéliées 2015
94 points | \$75 | 30 cases imported | Red

Richly layered, with warm fig, boysenberry and raspberry confiture flavors stacked with graphite, ganache and roasted apple wood notes. Best from 2020 through 2040.—*J.M.*

OREGON

Pinot Noir

BEAUX FRÈRES

Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge The Beaux Frères Vineyard 2015
95 points | \$95 | 2,700 cases made | Red

Offers impressive presence and polish, with a multilayered, complex core wrapped in rich and expressive blueberry and cherry flavors. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

BEAUX FRÈRES

Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge The Upper Terrace 2015
95 points | \$105 | 1,120 cases made | Red

A dynamic wine, with beguiling rose petal and violet aromas, accented by dark plum and blueberry notes. The flavors are focused and structured. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

BERGSTRÖM

Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge Le Pré Du Col Vineyard 2015
94 points | \$70 | 250 cases made | Red

Well-knit and precise, with lively violet and blueberry aromas and sleek, complex black raspberry and savory green peppercorn flavors. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

BERGSTRÖM

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Shea Vineyard 2015
93 points | \$62 | 500 cases made | Red

Sleek and polished, with lovely raspberry and fresh violet aromas that open to harmonious dark cherry, stony mineral and black tea flavors. Drink now through 2022.—*T.F.*

FAILLA

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard 2015
93 points | \$60 | 346 cases made | Red

Plump, ripe and richly structured, with expressive blackberry and blueberry flavors accented by smoky anise and dark tea notes. The tannins are big but refined. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

RAIN DANCE

Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains 2015
93 points | \$40 | 125 cases made | Red

Sleek and elegantly complex, with floral cherry and strawberry flavors, accented by spicy cinnamon details and crisp minerality. Drink now through 2022.—*T.F.*

SOLÉNA

Pinot Noir McMinnville Hyland Vineyard 2015
93 points | \$55 | 340 cases made | Red

Expressive and well-built, with violet and fresh raspberry aromas and rich, polished cherry and orange zest flavors that linger on refined tannins. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

BEAUX FRÈRES

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2015
92 points | \$65 | 2,100 cases made | Red

Rich and open-knit, yet well-structured, with expressive violet and blueberry aromas and layered dark plum, black tea and spice flavors. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

BERGSTRÖM

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Bergström Vineyard 2015
92 points | \$95 | 500 cases made | Red

Sleekly complex and dynamic, with bright cherry and floral tea aromas and vibrant red plum and smoky anise flavors that glide toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

OWEN ROE

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Clonmacnois Durant Vineyards 2014
92 points | \$55 | 120 cases made | Red

Silky and expressive, with floral cherry flavors and orange zest and mint accents, set on an elegantly complex structure that sails toward a lovely finish. Drink now through 2022.—*T.F.*

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.

DOMAINE ST.-PRÉFERT

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Collection Charles Giraud 2015
99 points | \$93 | 300 cases imported | Red

Gorgeous, starting off with warm ganache and Turkish coffee aromas, followed by dense, fleshy layers of fig cake, steeped plum and warm blackberry confiture. Shows lots of juicy energy through the finish, with anise and singed juniper accents adding range. Cellar first, then enjoy the smoke show. Best from 2020 through 2045. *From France.—J.M.*

DOMAINE GIRAUD

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Grenaches de Pierre 2015
97 points | \$105 | 36 cases imported | Red

Gorgeous, with black tea and warm anise aromas leading the way for a core of ganache, raspberry pâte de fruit, plum cake and blackberry compote flavors. Dense and fleshy, featuring a terrific bolt of graphite coursing through the back end. Inviting, but cellar this for maximum effect. Best from 2020 through 2040. *From France.—J.M.*

DOMAINE GIRAUD

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Gallimardes 2015
97 points | \$105 | 48 cases imported | Red

Very seductive, with a note of Turkish coffee out front, quickly melding into a delicious mix of black currant, plum and boysenberry pâte de fruit flavors. Lots of black tea, incense and warm fruitcake details swirl throughout, while well-buried minerality keeps the finish lengthy and firmly grounded. This just gets bigger and bigger with aeration. Best from 2020 through 2040. *From France.—J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2015
97 points | \$90 | 392 cases imported | Red

Ripe and focused, with a delightful mix of cassis, blood orange and cherry coulis flavors streaming through, backed by black tea and apple wood accents. Finely beaded acidity lets the fruit stretch out, while a light mineral edge adds range. Shows an echo of licorice snap at the very end. Dense, but there's remarkable grace here. Best from 2020 through 2040. *From France.—J.M.*

ROGER SABON & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Secret des Sabon 2015
97 points | \$200 | 112 cases imported | Red

Gorgeous, with a velvety, caressing mouthfeel to the waves of linzer torte, warm cassis and raspberry pâte de fruit flavors, laced with black tea, mulled spice, singed alder and melted licorice notes. The long finish has latent grip and a beautiful iron accent but remains beguiling overall, letting the fruit and perfume play out beautifully. Best from 2020 through 2040. *From France.—J.M.*

DOMAINE ST.-PRÉFERT

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Auguste Favier Réserve 2015
97 points | \$55 | 300 cases imported | Red

Vibrant and captivating, with exuberant fruitcake, cinnamon and black tea aromas leading the way for a fleshy core of raspberry pâte de fruit, plum sauce and cassis, all allied to a lovely velvety texture. Maintains intensity through the finish, showing a long echo of pastis. Best from 2020 through 2040. *From France.—J.M.*

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 10 tasters count more than 220 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 1983. Tasting beat: California

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1984. Tasting beat:
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Kim Marcus Senior editor, Napa
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat:
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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