

# Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

**A PANOPLY OF DELECTABLE REDS AND WHITES TEMPTS WINE LOVERS** in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, with remarkable bottlings from Australia, California, France and South Africa. This is a report of the most exciting wines our editors have discovered in the tasting room in recent weeks.

Powerful Cabernets from Australia's Cloudburst and Hickinbotham and Napa Valley's Pahlmeyer leave a lasting impression. Gorgeous white Burgundy from eminent producers such as Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey and Olivier Leflaive deliver expansive depth and flavor. Bold bottlings from the Cape round out this irresistible selection. Eight outstanding bottles here cost \$40 or less. Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.

## AUSTRALIA

### CLOUDBURST

**Cabernet Sauvignon Margaret River 2014**  
**93 points | \$250 | 32 cases imported | Red**

Distinctive, with a minerally, fresh earth note to the currant and juicy red licorice flavors. Dried rose petal and black tea details linger. The tannins are dense but polished, providing a firm but gentle backbone. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

### POWELL & SON

**Riverside Barossa 2015**  
**93 points | \$20 | 2,000 cases made | Red**

A supple, seamless mix of cherry and raspberry flavors, with dried violet, savory and smoky details, accented by hints of sarsaparilla. Polished and refined, especially on the effortless finish. Grenache, Mataro and Shiraz. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

### JOHN DUVAL

**Grenache Barossa Annexus 2015**  
**92 points | \$60 | 30 cases imported | Red**

Distinctive, with cumin and caraway seed aromas that add a level of aromatic complexity to the dense, mineral-laced wild blackberry flavors. Shows plenty of concentration on the finish. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

### HENTLEY FARM

**Grenache Barossa Valley The Old Legend 2015**  
**92 points | \$60 | 100 cases imported | Red**

White pepper, orange zest and dried cherry flavors have plenty of elegance and precision, with hints of roasted chestnut and chalky minerality. Focused on the finish, where the tannins announce themselves quietly. Drink now through 2028.—*M.W.*

### HICKINBOTHAM

**Shiraz McLaren Vale Brooks Road 2014**  
**92 points | \$75 | 255 cases imported | Red**

The fleshy plum and licorice notes are generous, with a plump, plush body, cinnamon-scented spice accents and touches of black tea on the finish. Drink now through 2027.—*M.W.*

### MAC FORBES

**Pinot Noir Yarra Valley Woori Yallock 2015**  
**92 points | \$75 | 20 cases imported | Red**

Aromatic and focused, with cinnamon and clove accents adding a pretty aromatic edge to the creamy cherry and red currant flavors. Ends with vibrant acidity and black tealike tannins. Drink now through 2022.—*M.W.*

### TORBRECK

**The Steading Barossa Valley 2014**  
**92 points | \$35 | 400 cases imported | Red**

Plump and juicy, with wild blackberry and blueberry flavors that have plenty of spice and espresso accents. Tobacco and black chocolate flavors linger against a thick, velvety mouthful. Grenache, Mataro and Shiraz. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

## YALUMBA

Grenache Barossa Old Bush Vine 2015

**92 points | \$20 | 1,200 cases imported | Red**

Elegant, with plump, ripe raspberry flavors at the core, accented by hints of tobacco, licorice and spice. Powerful and pure on the long, expressive and creamy finish. Drink now through 2027.—*M.W.*

## YERINGBERG

Yarra Valley 2014

**92 points | \$90 | 25 cases imported | Red**

Dense and rustic, with sinewy tannins and tar, graphite and tobacco accents to the thick, chewy core of blackberry and plum. There's plenty of charm here, and much hope for the cellar. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

# CALIFORNIA

## ARGOT

Syrah Sonoma Mountain Estate Vineyard 2013

**93 points | \$70 | 105 cases made | Red**

Expressive black raspberry and smoky pepper aromas combine with rich, well-structured dark plum, chocolate espresso and licorice flavors, finishing with refined tannins. Drink now through 2027.—*T.F.*

## BEDROCK

Evangelho Vineyard Heritage Contra Costa County 2015

**93 points | \$35 | 600 cases made | Red**

Expressive and floral raspberry and orange zest aromas open to rich and sleekly layered plum, cracked pepper and smoky sweet anise flavors that linger on the long finish. Zinfandel, Mourvèdre, Carignane, Alicante Bouschet, Mission and Palomino. Drink now through 2026.—*T.F.*

## BEDROCK

Zinfandel California Old Vine 2015

**93 points | \$25 | 4,500 cases made | Red**

Rich and supple, this is an explosion of pure, decadent fruit. Floral huckleberry and Chinese five-spice powder aromas open to layered blackberry, dark chocolate and licorice flavors that linger. Drink now through 2026.—*T.F.*

## KISTLER

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Cuvée Natalie Silver Belt Vineyard 2014

**93 points | \$100 | 1,070 cases made | Red**

Complex black cherry and blackberry flavors are shaded by spicy, cedary oak and supported by firm, gripping tannins that make for a powerful expression. Shows a measure of elegance and finesse. Drink now through 2023.—*J.L.*

## MIRAFLORES

Zinfandel El Dorado Yellow Block 2013

**93 points | \$32 | 192 cases made | Red**

Bold, rich and well-built, with brooding blackberry and stony mineral aromas and complex, polished wild berry, bitter chocolate and licorice flavors that linger toward big but refined tannins. Drink now through 2026.—*T.F.*

## MIRAFLORES

Zinfandel El Dorado 2014

**92 points | \$30 | 600 cases made | Red**

Bold, well-built and expressive, with black currant, crushed stone and sage aromas and dense but rich wild berry, licorice and bitter chocolate flavors that linger toward big yet refined tannins. Drink now through 2026.—*T.F.*

## SBRAGIA FAMILY

Zinfandel Alexander Valley Old Vine Italo's Vineyard 2014

**92 points | \$36 | 336 cases made | Red**

Balances structure with rich and briary fruit, offering black cherry and smoky sage aromas and zesty, focused flavors of raspberry, white pepper and dill. Drink now through 2027.—*T.F.*

# FRANCE

## Burgundy / Côte de Beaune

## BLAIN-GAGNARD

Chassagne-Montrachet Caillerets 2014

**94 points | \$95 | 100 cases imported | White**

A lush, harmonious version, featuring aromas and flavors of white flowers, lemon curd, peach and vanilla. The good cut meshes well with the texture, while the finish evokes Key lime pie. Drink now through 2027.—*B.S.*

## LOUIS JADOT

Bâtard-Montrachet 2014

**94 points | \$367 | 75 cases imported | White**

Broad and spicy, with vanilla, clove, nutmeg and toast aromas and flavors accenting a core of peach and lemon. Creamy, with good underlying structure and a long, spice-filled finish. Best from 2019 through 2027.—*B.S.*

## DOMAINE LEFLAIVE

Puligny-Montrachet Clavoillon 2014

**94 points | \$195 | 294 cases imported | White**

This beauty is creamy and finely knit, showing off lemon cake, apple, floral and mineral flavors. Impeccably balanced and long, this unfolds slowly to reveal an aftertaste that echoes lemon, mineral and spice. Best from 2019 through 2028.—*B.S.*

## DOMAINE LEFLAIVE

Puligny-Montrachet Les Pucelles 2014

**94 points | \$335 | 127 cases imported | White**

Smooth and creamy, with a lime edge to the peach, apple and oak spice flavors. Shows good cut underneath, driving the flavors to a long, mouthwatering conclusion. Refined and elegant. Best from 2018 through 2024.—*B.S.*

## LUCIEN LE MOINE

Puligny-Montrachet Les Folatières 2014

**94 points | \$180 | 20 cases imported | White**

Inviting aromas of flowers, peach, toasty oak and oyster shell are the hallmarks of this suave white. Terrific balance and cut drive the long, citrus- and spice-filled aftertaste. Best from 2018 through 2025.—*B.S.*

## PIERRE MATROT

**Puligny-Montrachet Les Combettes 2014**  
**94 points | \$115 | 40 cases imported | White**

This is full of aromas and flavors of white flowers, lime and mineral, making for an elegant, lacy white. There is a firm, vibrant structure and a long, citrus-infused aftertaste. The precise balance makes this approachable now. Drink now through 2024.—*B.S.*

## MICHEL NIELLON

**Bâtard-Montrachet 2014**  
**94 points | \$400 | 37 cases imported | White**

Floral and mineral notes highlight this complex, elegant white. Peach and lemon are the core flavors, matched to a supple texture. The potential is revealed on the long, stony aftertaste. Best from 2019 through 2030.—*B.S.*

## MICHEL NIELLON

**Chassagne-Montrachet Clos de la Maltroie 2014**  
**94 points | \$105 | 100 cases imported | White**

A powerful, viscous white, with floral, lemon oil and mineral notes. Delivers good acidity and a chalky sensation, leaving a juicy impression on the finish. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*B.S.*

## BRUNO COLIN

**Chassagne-Montrachet La Maltroie 2014**  
**93 points | \$100 | 63 cases imported | White**

Vibrant and focused, with lemon, apple and pear flavors dovetailing with the firm structure. Expands nicely on the finish, where a minerally accent emerges. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*B.S.*

## GAGNARD-DELAGRANGE

**Chassagne-Montrachet La Boudriotte 2014**  
**93 points | \$95 | 50 cases imported | White**

This is creamy, with an opulent texture wrapping the peach, apple, lemon cake, spice and mineral flavors. Unfolds with care, extending the finish and leaving a long aftertaste of lemon, butterscotch and spice. Best from 2018 through 2025.—*B.S.*

## RAMONET

**Chassagne-Montrachet Boudriotte 2014**  
**93 points | \$110 | 60 cases imported | White**

Smooth and juicy, this white evokes peach, apple and sweet spice flavors. The lively structure keeps this fresh and focused, allowing the finish to linger gracefully. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

# SOUTH AFRICA

## SADIE FAMILY

**Soldaat Piekenierskloof 2015**  
**93 points | \$65 | 350 cases made | Red**

High-pitched, with bright savory and shiso leaf notes out front, giving this a piercing feel as blood orange, damson plum and bitter cherry fruit races in behind. The long, mineral-edged finish has lovely tension. Grenache. Best from 2018 through 2025.—*J.M.*

## A.A. BADENHORST FAMILY

**Swartland 2014**  
**92 points | \$43 | 750 cases made | Red**

A sanguine note leads the way, giving this a tangy profile, as damson plum, bitter cherry and raspberry coulis flavors fill in. The bright iron edge on the finish is flecked with savory details. Long and fresh, with a Northern Rhône-like character. Shiraz, Grenache, Cinsault and Tinta Barocca. Drink now through 2021.—*J.M.*

## BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF

**Cabernet Sauvignon Franschhoek 2014**  
**92 points | \$74 | 55 cases imported | Red**

Densely layered, with flavors of red currant preserves, raspberry paste and bitter plum coulis. Stays refined, as fine-grained tannins and subtle cedar and singed vanilla notes are nicely embedded throughout. Reveals a pretty flash of iron at the very end. Best from 2018 through 2024.—*J.M.*

## KANONKOP

**Paul Sauer Simonsberg-Stellenbosch 2013**  
**92 points | \$55 | 150 cases imported | Red**

This has a winey core of steeped currant and fig fruit, lined with singed cinnamon and tobacco notes. Shows a juicy tug through the finish, with an echo of mesquite. Displays solid range and depth. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

## MULLINEUX

**Syrah Swartland Schist Roundstone 2014**  
**92 points | \$140 | 10 cases imported | Red**

Solidly built, with a core of succulent raspberry and blackberry puree flavors, lined with anise, singed alder and black tea details. A streak of iron races through the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

## SADIE FAMILY

**Pofadder Swartland 2015**  
**92 points | \$60 | 450 cases made | Red**

Starts off light, with silky cherry and blackberry fruit flavors gliding through, picking up shiso leaf, pepper, sage and iron notes along the way. A lovely black tea echo emerges on the sneakily long finish. Cinsault. Drink now through 2021.—*J.M.*

## SADIE FAMILY

**Treinspoor Swartland 2015**  
**92 points | \$57 | 650 cases made | Red**

Exuberant cherry, cassis and raspberry fruit flavors race through, flecked with savory and pepper notes. Ends with a bright iron edge on the finish. Solidly built, but relies more on acidity than tannins in the end. Tinta Barocca. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

# 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.

## PIERRE-YVES COLIN-MOREY

Chevalier-Montrachet 2014

**97 points | \$625 | 4 cases imported | White**

Verging on creamy in texture, with lemon cake, vanilla, sweet spice and mineral aromas and flavors, this is sleek and harmonious, building beautifully to a long, expansive and kaleidoscopic finish. Best from 2019 through 2030. *From France.—B.S.*

## OLIVIER LEFLAIVE

Bâtard-Montrachet Domaine 2013

**96 points | \$569 | 10 cases imported | White**

Lean, intense and tightly wound, offering a core of lemon cake, apple and mineral wrapped in a veil of toasty oak. Vivid acidity cuts through, marshaling the long finish, where spice and mineral elements linger. Best from 2019 through 2028. *From France.—B.S.*

## PAHLMMEYER

Napa Valley 2014

**95 points | \$175 | 5,000 cases made | Red**

A remarkable effort, engagingly rich and concentrated, with a deep, firm mix of licorice-shaded blackberry, currant, graphite, dried herb and cedary oak notes. The flavors hold and gain, leading to a persistent finish that keeps echoing the core elements. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030. *From California.—J.L.*

## PIERRE-YVES COLIN-MOREY

Bâtard-Montrachet 2014

**95 points | \$600 | 2 cases imported | White**

A broad, rich and powerful style, featuring butterscotch, toasted brioche, peach and lemon aromas and flavors. A hint of nut oil adds extra intensity as this cruises into a long, juicy aftertaste. Best from 2020 through 2032. *From France.—B.S.*

## PIERRE MATROT

Puligny-Montrachet Les Chalumeaux 2014

**95 points | \$100 | 100 cases imported | White**

A lush, concentrated white, featuring peach, melon, lemon curd and mineral flavors. Intense, building to a long, saturated aftertaste that picks up lime blossom, sweet spice and seashore elements. Shows terrific length on the finish. Best from 2018 through 2027. *From France.—B.S.*

## HICKINBOTHAM

Cabernet Sauvignon McLaren Vale Trueman 2014

**94 points | \$75 | 330 cases imported | Red**

Polished and expressive, with a hint of caramel and brown sugar to smooth out the dense black cherry and plum flavors. Dark chocolate, spice and toasted tobacco notes are aromatic and generous on the long finish. Drink now through 2028. *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).

**James Laube** Senior editor, Napa

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: California

**Harvey Steiman** Editor at large, San Francisco

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1984. Tasting beat:

At large

**Kim Marcus** Senior editor, Napa

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Argentina, California, Chile

**Thomas Matthews** Executive editor, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Spain

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1993. Tasting beat: Austria, Burgundy, Germany, Italy

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

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**Tim Fish** Senior editor, Napa

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2001. Tasting beat: California, Oregon, Washington

**Gillian Sciarretta** Tasting coordinator, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2012. Tasting beat: France, Portugal

#### 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