

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

SHOWCASING CABERNETS AND PINOTS as well as less familiar styles such as luscious dessert Vin Santo, this week's *Wine Spectator Insider* offers a glimpse at some of the most exciting wines our editors have discovered in the tasting room this week.

There are five classic 95-point wines here, from an Oregon Chardonnay to a dry Portuguese red. Look for super Tuscans, German Rieslings, Washington Syrahs and Oregon Pinots as well, from achievers like No Girls, Leonetti, Quilceda Creek, Joh. Jos. Prüm, Fontodi, Penner-Ash and Ayoub. Don't miss the six Hot Wines on page 4.

GERMANY

JOH. JOS. PRÜM

Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Mosel Graacher Himmelreich 2012

94 points | \$112 | NA cases made | White

A rich, savory style, with well-defined celery salt accents to the crunchy apple, ripe citrus and smoked almond flavors. Elegant midpalate, with a saline snap and some smoky notes that fill the layered and creamy finish. Drink now through 2042.—*K.M.*

JOH. JOS. PRÜM

Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Mosel Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2012

94 points | \$125 | NA cases made | White

Offers a rich and spicy aroma, with honeyed notes to the plush ripe peach, melon and apricot flavors, accented by plenty of jellyed citrus hints and backed by zesty acidity. Golden raisin details emerge on the endless finish. Drink now through 2042.—*K.M.*

DR. H. THANISCH (VDP)

Riesling Auslese Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2012

93 points | \$53 | 100 cases made | White

Fresh and intense, with grapefruit and green apple flavors flanked by ginger notes. Rich and savory midpalate, offering lemon verbena overtones framed by a steely structure. Mineral and sea salt details emerge on the finish. Drink now through 2042.—*K.M.*

DR. H. THANISCH (VDP)

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Berncasteler Doctor 2012

93 points | \$76 | 200 cases made | White

This rich version is filled with concentrated ripe peach, dried pear, glazed apricot and lemon zest flavors that are layered with plenty of mineral notes. Exhibits excellent balance and freshness, with a long finish filled with honey, cream and anise elements. Drink now through 2040.—*K.M.*

ITALY TUSCANY

IL MOLINO DI GRACE

Chianti Classico Il Margone Riserva 2007

94 points | \$52 | 750 cases made | Red

Rich, concentrated and packed with cherry and plum fruit, this red is just hitting its stride, with licorice, spice and tobacco notes and dense tannins enmeshed in the texture. The long finish is firm and expressive, imparting a savory, mineral aftertaste. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

POGGIO ANTICO

Toscana Madre 2010

94 points | \$72 | 220 cases imported | Red

Dark and brooding, offering black cherry, plum, licorice and leather flavors allied to a dense texture. Solid, yet fluid enough to allow the tobacco and spice flavors to linger in the aftertaste. Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2016 through 2024.—*B.S.*

PODERE POGGIO SCALETTE

Alta Valle della Greve Capogato 2011

94 points | \$75 | 165 cases made | Red

Intense aromas and flavors of violet, cassis, blackberry and tar highlight this concentrated red. Fresh and balanced, though this will take some time to reach equilibrium. The finish is saturated with dark berry fruit. Best from 2017 through 2028.—*B.S.*

CAPEZZANA

Vin Santo del Carmignano Riserva 2007

93 points | \$55/375ml | 200 cases imported | Dessert

Copper-colored and rich, this dessert white features dried apricot, caramel, burnt sugar and walnut aromas and flavors, backed by lively acidity that lends the finish a lingering freshness. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

FONTODI

Chianti Classico Vigna del Sorbo Riserva

Gran Selezione 2011

93 points | \$75 | 900 cases imported | Red

A thick, powerful and modern style, with cherry and plum flavors and dense tannins. Licorice, leather and spice flavors add complexity while the tannins lend grip on the long, juicy finish. Best from 2016 through 2024.—*B.S.*

PODERE SAPAIO

Bolgheri Volpoco 2011

93 points | \$35 | 1,200 cases imported | Red

Restrained, exhibiting black currant, cherry, cedar and sage aromas, picking up licorice, spice and mineral flavors. Concentrated and focused, with a beam of acidity and an iron accent on the finish. Best from 2016 through 2024.—*B.S.*

TENIMENTI LUIGI D'ALESSANDRO

Syrah Cortona Migliana 2010

92 points | \$103 | 150 cases made | Red

Dark flavors of blackberry, black cherry and licorice highlight this powerful red. Thickly textured and almost chewy, yet shining with bright acidity, this reveals black pepper elements on the impenetrable finish. Best from 2016 through 2026.—*B.S.*

CASA EMMA

Chianti Classico Vignaparco 2010

92 points | \$32 | 500 cases made | Red

Fresh and harmonious, bursting with cherry, raspberry, wild herb and mineral flavors. The finish is lip-smacking while the structure pushes the fruit and spice flavors to a long conclusion. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

FONTODI

Chianti Classico 2011

92 points | \$32 | 4,500 cases imported | Red

Reinforced by beefy tannins, this black cherry- and plum-filled version offers floral and spice accents. In a modern, fruity style, yet not oaky, this stays lively and persistent through the long aftertaste. Best from 2016 through 2027.—*B.S.*

CASTELLO DI MONSANTO

Chianti Classico Riserva 2011

92 points | \$25 | 17,500 cases imported | Red

Aromas and flavors of eucalyptus, wild sage and pine mingle with cherry, tobacco and earth notes in this complex, structured Chianti Classico. Built for the long haul. Drink now through 2024.—*B.S.*

OREGON

ELK COVE

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Mount Richmond 2012

94 points | \$60 | 793 cases made | Red

Broad and expressive, not heavy but dense, with cherry, black plum and rose petal flavors that soar over refined tannins into a long and harmonious finish. Best from 2015 through 2022.—*H.S.*

PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Pas De Nom 2012

94 points | \$100 | 250 cases made | Red

Light on its feet, offering rich black cherry and smoky flavors that turn sweet and spicy on the polished finish. Deep and deft, with a finish that doesn't quit. Best from 2015 through 2020.—*H.S.*

AYOUB

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Winderlea Vineyard 2012

93 points | \$48 | 115 cases made | Red

Vibrant, spicy, complex and intense, layered with cinnamon-accented cherry, cola and coffee flavors that glide purposefully into a long finish. Best from 2015 through 2022.—*H.S.*

BERGSTRÖM

Chardonnay Willamette Valley Sigrid 2012

93 points | \$85 | 953 cases made | White

Crisp and lively, with vibrant, honeyed pear and spice flavors playing against racy acidity. Has generosity and impressive depth. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

BERGSTRÖM

Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge Le Pré Du Col Vineyard 2012

93 points | \$60 | 802 cases made | Red

Supple, with mildly grainy tannins around a sleek core of raspberry-inflected cherry and black tea flavors, lingering intensely on the expressive finish. Best from 2015 through 2022.—*H.S.*

PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Bella Vida Vineyard 2012

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

Velvety, open-textured and expressive, with layers of red berry, cherry, cinnamon and roasted meat. Comes together harmoniously and intensely on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Zena Crown Vineyard 2012
93 points | \$65 | 275 cases made | Red

Firm in texture, with a bit of grit to the tannins underlying the ripe blackberry and licorice flavors, extending into a polished and expressively smoky finish. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Shea Vineyard 2012
93 points | \$65 | 865 cases made | Red

Vibrant, focused and complex, offering a distinctive savory spice element that plays against the plum and currant fruit, coming together seamlessly on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

RR

Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge Ridgecrest Vineyards 2010
93 points | \$69 | 447 cases made | Red

Supple, velvety and gloriously expressive, layering blueberry, currant, white pepper and white chocolate flavors on a supple, medium-weight frame. Best from 2015 through 2020.—*H.S.*

PORTUGAL

QUINTA DAS BANDEIRAS VINHOS

Douro Passagem Reserva 2011
92 points | \$25 | 200 cases imported | Red

A sumptuous and luscious red, with a briary character to the rich dark and red fruit flavors, layered with savory and mineral notes. Medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

LAVRADORES DE FEITORIA

Douro Quinta da Costa das Aguaneiras 2011
92 points | \$30 | 100 cases imported | Red

Dense and rich, with concentrated plum pudding, black fig, Asian spice and dark currant flavors. Intense dried berry notes chime in with white pepper accents. Drink now through 2019.—*K.M.*

QUINTA DO PORTAL

Douro Auru 2011
92 points | \$120 | 470 cases made | Red

Shows good grip to the red plum, pepper and hoisin sauce flavors that glide with fresh, juicy intensity across the palate. Intense blueberry accents emerge midpalate. Drink now through 2019.—*K.M.*

WASHINGTON

LEONETTI

Reserve Walla Walla Valley 2011
94 points | \$140 | 1,028 cases made | Red

Refined, with juicy currant and blackberry fruit, shaded with hints of allspice and bay leaf. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2026.—*H.S.*

CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE

Syrah Columbia Valley Ethos Reserve 2011
93 points | \$50 | 750 cases made | Red

Vibrant, focused and juicy, with blackberry, pear and floral aromas and flavors that slide beautifully into a long and expressive finish. Deep and sleek. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

COLUMBIA CREST

Syrah Horse Heaven Hills Coyote Canyon Vineyard Reserve 2011
93 points | \$30 | 300 cases made | Red

Dark, rich and complex, not heavy but broad-shouldered enough to lift the licorice- and tar-accented blackberry and meaty flavors into orbit around the finish. Best from 2016 through 2020.—*H.S.*

COUGAR CREST

Cabernet Franc Walla Walla Valley Cougar Hills Vineyard 2009
93 points | \$40 | 643 cases made | Red

Sleek in structure and expansive in flavor, singing with gorgeous red berry, cherry, floral and white pepper aromas and flavors that dance gracefully through the finish. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

GÅRD

Syrah Columbia Valley Grand Klasse Lawrence Vineyards 2011
93 points | \$49 | 165 cases made | Red

Dark and peppery, with sweet cherry notes coming through the dusky spice and licorice flavors, creating a lovely harmony on the finish. Needs time. Best from 2016 through 2021.—*H.S.*

JANUIK

Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain Ciel du Cheval Vineyard 2011
93 points | \$45 | 144 cases made | Red

Plush and open-textured, bursting with juicy black currant and cherry fruit, layering in hints of mint, dill and mocha as the finish lingers intensely. Best from 2016 through 2021.—*H.S.*

LEONETTI

Merlot Walla Walla Valley 2012
93 points | \$75 | 1,859 cases made | Red

Has terrific presence, offering blueberry, currant and spice notes that arch beautifully on the long finish, wrapped in gentle tannins. Best from 2015 through 2020.—*H.S.*

QUILCEDA CREEK

Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2011
93 points | \$140 | 2,250 cases made | Red

Firm in texture, with a layer of drying tannins around a brilliantly focused core of blackberry and currant, coming together on the finish and persisting well. Best from 2016 through 2021.—*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.

BADIA A COLTIBUONO

Vin Santo del Chianti Classico Occhio di Pernice 2004
95 points | \$70/375ml | 25 cases imported | Dessert

A refined style, silky in texture and complex in flavor, with honey, caramel, fig paste, dried apricot, tobacco and clove notes boosted by vivid acidity. This cascades to a long aftertaste of dried fruit and spice. Very pure and harmonious. Drink now through 2020. *From Italy.*—*B.S.*

BIG TABLE FARM

Chardonnay Willamette Valley 2012
95 points | \$42 | 246 cases made | White

Brilliantly focused, tangy and balanced, offering towering flavors of pear, pineapple, cream and floral on a pinpoint of acidity, broadening into an expressive, explosive finish. Delivers tremendous precision, persistence and expression. Drink now through 2020. *From Oregon.*—*H.S.*

FONTODI

Colli della Toscana Centrale Flaccianello 2011
95 points | \$120 | 2,000 cases imported | Red

Violet, black currant, raspberry and spice aromas and flavors gain intensity as this red builds to a lengthy conclusion. Vibrant and harmonious, this will require some time to shed its well-proportioned tannins. Sangiovese. Best from 2017 through 2030. *From Italy.*—*B.S.*

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).

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

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

NO GIRLS

Syrah Walla Walla Valley La Paciencia Vineyard 2010
95 points | \$65 | 199 cases made | Red

Fresh, vibrant, expansive and expressive, this offers towering flavors of black cherry, blackberry, floral and coffee. A flick of strawberry adds freshness to the finish. Deep and harmonious. Drink now through 2020. *From Washington.*—*H.S.*

QUINTA DE LA ROSA

Douro La Rosa Reserva 2011
95 points | \$65 | 224 cases imported | Red

A powerful red, with a luscious spiced aroma and rich, ripe and intense flavors of blackberry, dark plum, boysenberry and black licorice. This is backed by plenty of fresh acidity, presenting a crisp finish filled with zesty spiced cherry notes. Drink now through 2022. *From Portugal.*—*K.M.*

DR. H. THANISCH (VDP)

Riesling Auslese Mosel Berncasteler Doctor 2012
94 points | \$95 | 100 cases made | White

Pure and vibrant, with concentrated minerality to the fresh herb, melon and lemon verbena flavors, supported by crunchy acidity. Delicate shadings of graphite and dried tarragon are on offer as well. The finish sings with flinty notes. Drink now through 2042. *From Germany.*—*K.M.*

THANISCH (VDP)

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