

# Wine Spectator Insider

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**BLUE-CHIP COLLECTORS AND VALUE HUNTERS** alike should find something to please them in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, a report of our editors' most exciting recent finds in their blind tastings. Serious Chardonnay, Cabernet, Syrah, Tempranillo and Nebbiolo from the Old World and New compete here, with picks reaching 97 points.

Barolos from Paolo Scavino, Giovanni Rocca, Fratelli Giacosa and others offer solid value for the category, while high rollers can check out the latest *grand cru* white Burgundies from Montrachet, Meursault and more, with names like Ramonet, Roulot, Olivier Leflaive and Faiveley rolling out beautiful examples. To round this out, a mix of Spanish wines intrigue, and Washington's K Vintners leads the pack of domestic wine. Look for the nine wines here at 90-plus points and \$40 or less, as well as the six classic Hot Wines on page 4.

## FRANCE Burgundy

### OLIVIER LEFLAIVE

Chevalier-Montrachet Domaine 2012

**94 points | \$794 | 20 cases imported | White**

A flamboyant style, boasting smoke, spice and butter aromas and flavors, with peach and citrus hints lurking in the background.

With air, this reveals a stony intensity, lemon verbena hints and a creamy texture. Shows terrific harmony and length. Best from 2017 through 2028.—*B.S.*

### OLIVIER LEFLAIVE

Bâtard-Montrachet Domaine 2012

**94 points | \$607 | 30 cases imported | White**

This expressive version bursts with stone fruit, citrus, mineral and spice flavors, all matched to a juicy texture. Vibrant, kicking up energy on the long, spice- and citrus-accented finish. Shows enough structure to develop over the next 10 to 12 years. Best from 2016 through 2027.—*B.S.*

### DOMAINE ROULOT

Meursault Perrières 2012

**94 points | \$325 | 3 cases imported | White**

Subtle aromas of flowers, lime and vanilla lead to flavors of acacia and apple in this silky white. Nutmeg and allspice notes emerge on the finish as this stays fresh and balanced. Excellent length. Gains aromatics and flavor with air, so decant if you open now. Best from 2016 through 2026.—*B.S.*

### RAMONET

Bâtard-Montrachet 2011

**94 points | \$285 | 20 cases imported | White**

The skeletal structure of this white is fused with lemon cake, apple and melon flavors and a mineral essence. Though lacking in flesh, this features intense flavors and a finish that lingers with vibrant fruit, spice and mineral notes. Best from 2017 through 2028.—*B.S.*

### RAMONET

Chevalier-Montrachet 2011

**94 points | \$450 | 8 cases imported | White**

An immediate scent of stone leads to apple, lemon and mineral flavors in this intense, focused, almost ethereal white. Beautifully balanced, with hints of toast and spice. A mineral theme echoes on the finish. Best from 2016 through 2025.—*B.S.*

## DOMAINE FAIVELEY

Bâtard-Montrachet 2012

**93 points | \$626 | 30 cases imported | White**

Opulent and supple in texture, with bright grapefruit, apple and mineral flavors. Spice and butter accents add depth to this balanced and accessible version. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

## OLIVIER LEFLAIVE

Chassagne-Montrachet Abbaye de Morgeot 2012

**93 points | \$134 | 40 cases imported | White**

An expressive white, offering aromas of lily and vanilla, followed by flavors of glazed apple and baking spices. Smooth and harmonious, presenting a lingering, tangy finish. Drink now through 2022.—*B.S.*

## OLIVIER LEFLAIVE

Montrachet 2012

**93 points | \$952 | 20 cases imported | White**

This opulent version exhibits ripe flavors of apricot, peach and grapefruit, with a hint of pineapple, accented by butter and spice details. A quinine element graces the oak-tinged fruit. Fine length. Drink now through 2024.—*B.S.*

## JEAN CHARTRON

Bâtard-Montrachet 2012

**93 points | \$330 | 6 cases imported | White**

A sense of power and a lush, creamy texture highlight this mouth-filling version, whose lemon cake, melon and spice flavors show persistence and length. Builds to a lengthy finish, offering fine balance and a long mineral- and spice-tinged aftertaste. Best from 2016 through 2026.—*B.S.*

## DOMAINE ROULOT

Meursault Vireuils 2012

**93 points | \$145 | 13 cases imported | White**

Smoke and spice aromas augment the lime blossom and acacia flavors in this firm, juicy white. Lemon and apple notes add a fruit component. Balanced, echoing mineral and spice details on the finish. Best from 2016 through 2024.—*B.S.*

## DOMAINE ROULOT

Meursault Tesson Clos de mon Plaisir 2012

**93 points | \$190 | 9 cases imported | White**

A vivid, delineated white, with apple, lemon and spice flavors etched onto the sleek frame. On the austere side now, but shows a stony finish, setting this up for a promising evolution. Best from 2016 through 2025.—*B.S.*

## SEGUIN-MANUEL

Meursault Vieilles Vignes 2012

**92 points | \$63 | 28 cases imported | White**

Lean and taut, with a vein of mineral punctuating the lemon, green apple and sweet spice aromas and flavors. Almost bracing in structure, this is focused, converging on a lemony aftertaste. Best from 2016 through 2024.—*B.S.*

# ITALY

## Barolo

### GUIDO PORRO

Barolo Vigna S. Caterina 2009

**93 points | \$42 | 180 cases imported | Red**

A mix of cherry, plum, eucalyptus and licorice aromas and flavors highlights this chewy red. Vibrant and juicy, with a firm yet mouth-watering finish. Best from 2017 through 2028.—*B.S.*

### GIOVANNI ROCCA

Barolo Ravera di Monforte 2010

**93 points | \$41 | 250 cases imported | Red**

Rich and supple, broad on the attack, this boasts cherry, raspberry and chalky mineral flavors. Tobacco and tar notes creep in, leaving a chalky sensation on the finish. Shows some power and austerity in the end. Best from 2018 through 2030.—*B.S.*

### GIOVANNI ROCCA

Barolo 2010

**93 points | \$38 | 300 cases imported | Red**

This is elegant and firmly structured, showing cherry, strawberry, leather and tobacco flavors. Lighter in style, with loads of detail on the lingering, mineral finish. Best from 2017 through 2032.—*B.S.*

### LUIGI PIRA

Barolo Serralunga 2010

**93 points | \$40 | 1,416 cases made | Red**

Bordeaux-like, revealing black currant, cedar, iron and olive flavors, supported by an iron spine. The licorice, cherry and tar notes remain focused on the aftertaste. Best from 2018 through 2032.—*B.S.*

### FRATELLI GIACOSA

Barolo Vigna Mandorlo 2010

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

Rich and savory, sporting cherry, plum, licorice and tobacco flavors. This is refined, despite the big tannins, showing gracefulness and a sense of elegance. Best from 2017 through 2030.—*B.S.*

### SCHIAVENZA

Barolo Prapò 2010

**93 points | \$67 | 450 cases made | Red**

Raspberry, tar and rose notes signal this juicy red, whose silky texture gives way to a burr of tannins as it unfolds on the palate. Elegant and structured. Best from 2018 through 2032.—*B.S.*

# SPAIN

### BODEGAS ATALAYA

Almansa Alaya 2012

**92 points | \$35 | 1,000 cases imported | Red**

Thick and plush, with muscular tannins and rich fruit, this red shows blackberry, currant, licorice, hoisin sauce and vanilla flavors. A massive wine. Garnacha Tintorera. Drink now through 2020.—*T.M.*

## BODEGAS LUIS CAÑAS

Rioja Selección de la Familia Reserva 2008  
**92 points | \$40 | 226 cases imported | Red**

Savory and harmonious, this red delivers currant, sanguine, black tea and smoky flavors. Well-integrated tannins and citrusy acidity provide a firm structure. Drink now through 2018.—*T.M.*

## BODEGAS LUIS CAÑAS

Rioja Hiru 3 Racimos 2007  
**91 points | \$150 | 5 cases imported | Red**

This polished red offers expressive flavors of dried cherry, cigar box, orange peel and black tea, with well-integrated tannins and bright acidity. Racy but focused. Drink now through 2019.—*T.M.*

## BODEGAS VALDEMAR

Tempranillo Blanco Rioja Inspiración 2013  
**91 points | \$26 | 1,200 cases made | White**

Rich and expressive, this plush white offers bold flavors of pear, quince, coconut and vanilla. Light tannins mingle with modest acidity, imparting structure. Drink now through 2018.—*T.M.*

## BODEGAS CERROLAZA

Rioja Aticus Reserva 2006  
**90 points | \$30 | 300 cases imported | Red**

Cedar, tobacco and graphite flavors show maturity in this firm, focused red, with a fresh and lively core of cherry and mineral. Firm tannins. Drink now through 2016.—*T.M.*

# WASHINGTON

## DOUBLE CANYON

Cabernet Sauvignon Horse Heaven Hills Double Canyon Vineyard 2012  
**94 points | \$48 | 273 cases made | Red**

Supple, ripe and expressive, not huge but generous, with plum, blueberry and dusky spice flavors, coming together harmoniously. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

## FORCE MAJEURE

Ciel Du Cheval Vineyard Collaboration Series III Red Mountain 2011  
**93 points | \$60 | 200 cases made | Red**

Firm, fine tannins wrap around a fresh and vital core of currant and plum fruit, hinting at licorice and black olive as the finish expands and persists. Syrah. Drink now through 2021.—*H.S.*

## K

Syrah Walla Walla Valley River Rock 2011  
**93 points | \$45 | 350 cases made | Red**

Velvety, open-textured and inviting, with plum, fresh currant and apricot flavors. Hints of crème brûlée complement the deftly balanced finish. Drink now through 2021.—*H.S.*

## PROPER

Syrah Walla Walla Valley 2012  
**93 points | \$42 | 590 cases made | Red**

Polished, round and expressive, featuring glassy tannins around a distinctive core of green olive-accented blackberry, plum, cherry and star anise flavors. Best from 2016 through 2022.—*H.S.*

## ABEJA

Syrah Walla Walla Valley 2012  
**93 points | \$40 | 182 cases made | Red**

Taut and firmly tannic, with a juicy core of plum and spice flavors, picking up tapenade hints and gaining momentum on the expressive finish. Best from 2016 through 2020.—*H.S.*

## BUNNELL

Aix Columbia Valley 2009  
**93 points | \$42 | 180 cases made | Red**

A streak of mineral, licorice and balsamic aromas weave through the ripe plum, blueberry and floral flavors, coming together on the velvety finish. Syrah. Drink now through 2021.—*H.S.*

## REININGER

Syrah Walla Walla Valley 2011  
**93 points | \$46 | 346 cases made | Red**

Plush, generous and open-textured, with a sense of transparency to the cherry, blueberry and plum fruit that picks up hints of caramel and white chocolate. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

## SLEIGHT OF HAND

Chardonnay Yakima Valley The Enchantress Old Vine 2012  
**93 points | \$28 | 175 cases made | White**

Supple, creamy and balanced, with taut acidity, twisting the pear, cinnamon, clove and passion fruit flavors into a lithe and seductive weave. Has depth and intensity. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

## WATERS

Syrah Walla Walla Valley Loess 2012  
**93 points | \$50 | 340 cases made | Red**

Focused, gritty, earthy and expressive, with a wash of licorice-accented black fruit playing against smoky paprika overtones. Promises a fascinating evolution. Best from 2016 through 2022.—*H.S.*

## K

Syrah Wahluke Slope The Deal Sundance 2011  
**92 points | \$40 | 429 cases made | Red**

Fresh and open-textured, with red berry, black cherry, licorice and smoke notes as the finish sails on. Drink now through 2021.—*H.S.*

## K

Syrah Wahluke Slope The Hidden Northridge Vineyard 2011  
**92 points | \$70 | 459 cases made | Red**

Fresh, vibrant and inviting, with a polished texture and expressive blueberry and clotted cream flavors, hinting at peach as the finish lingers against modest tannins. Drink now through 2019.—*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.

## PAOLO SCAVINO

Barolo Bric dël Fiasc 2010

**97 points | \$100 | 350 cases imported | Red**

Rich and brooding, this red features black cherry, raspberry, tar, leather and licorice flavors. Dense and complex, with a detailed matrix holding the flavors together. This will need time to integrate the dusty tannins, but shows excellent potential from the balance and length. Best from 2018 through 2036. *From Italy.—B.S.*

## AZELIA

Barolo Margheria 2010

**95 points | \$90 | 675 cases made | Red**

Round in profile, with base notes of plum, leather and tar to balance the higher-toned flavors of cherry, flowers and white pepper. Firm and lean on the finish now, featuring a mouthwatering aftertaste that echoes fruit and spice details. Terrific length. Best from 2018 through 2033. *From Italy.—B.S.*

## K

Syrah Walla Walla Valley The Beautiful 2011

**95 points | \$60 | 250 cases made | Red**

Soft, supple, vibrant in flavor and long on the finish, this offers plum, exotic spice, melon and tapenade flavors, with grace and harmony. Approachable now, this should develop more with cellaring. Drink now through 2021. *From Washington.—H.S.*

## RAMONET

Montrachet 2011

**95 points | \$900 | 10 cases imported | White**

Intense, with a thoroughly mineral aroma and a mix of ripe peach, apple and grapefruit flavors, graced with a floral accent. Racy and sleek, this builds to a long, creamy finish that echoes the fruit and picks up spice notes. Shows excellent potential. Best from 2017 through 2030. *From France.—B.S.*

## DOMAINE ROULOT

Meursault Charmes 2012

**95 points | \$300 | 3 cases imported | White**

Alluring floral aromas give way to lemon cake, apple tart, spice and mineral flavors. Supple and harmonious, with finesse and a lingering aftertaste that turns smoky and echoes the mineral element. Best from 2016 through 2025. *From France.—B.S.*

## AURELIO SETTIMO

Barolo 2008

**95 points | \$49 | 150 cases imported | Red**

This is really singing today, packed with licorice, leather, cherry, tobacco and menthol aromas and flavors. The tannins are rounding out, and though not a powerhouse, this still shows persistence and an aftertaste of spice and licorice. Approachable now, but should evolve even more with time. Drink now through 2028. *From Italy.—B.S.*

## 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).

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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