

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Biweekly Publication

FROM VIBRANT WHITES TO SEDUCTIVE REDS, this week's *Wine Spectator Insider* covers three continents, with picks at up to 98 points. Marquee releases here include the latest Mollydooker Velvet Glove, Carnival of Love, Enchanted Path and Blue Eyed Boy; Gaja Barbaresco; vintage Ferrari bubbly; and Amarones from Masi, Tedeschi and Zenato.

In addition to Australia and Italy, there are Oregon Pinots and Chardonnays from Eyrie and Sineann, as well as solid Spanish reds. Find the six Hot Wines on page 4.

AUSTRALIA

BK

Chardonnay Piccadilly Valley Swaby Single Vineyard 2012
93 points | \$75 | 112 cases imported | White

Sleek and silky, brimming with toasty, mineral-accented pear compote and savory spice flavors, lingering easily on the expressive finish. Has presence and finesse. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

GIACONDA

Chardonnay Victoria Estate Vineyard 2011
93 points | \$140 | 50 cases imported | White

Rich and expressive on a lively, delicate frame, packing orange peel-accented pineapple and floral flavors into a seductive package. Finishes with harmony and length. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

MOLLYDOOKER

Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon McLaren Vale
Enchanted Path 2012
93 points | \$75 | 1,327 cases made | Red

Dark and focused, expansive and juicy, with blackberry and black olive notes at the core. Offers hints of licorice and floral as the finish expands. Delivers ample depth, poise and expressiveness. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

GIANT STEPS

Chardonnay Yarra Valley Sexton Vineyard 2012
92 points | \$42 | 150 cases imported | White

Crisp, vibrant and expressive, layered with nectarine, grapefruit and white pepper flavors, finishing with intensity, length and deft balance. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

HARE'S CHASE

Shiraz Barossa Valley 2010
92 points | \$35 | 200 cases imported | Red

Sleek, polished and expressive, with juicy blackberry and black cherry flavors, hinting at coffee as the finish lingers with intensity and finesse. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

MOLLYDOOKER

Shiraz South Australia Blue Eyed Boy 2012
92 points | \$50 | 7,049 cases made | Red

Ink-dark, with a savory edge to the layers of black cherry, red plum, raspberry and licorice that rise up from the velvety tannins, forming a generous, plush finish. Best from 2016 through 2020.—*H.S.*

ANGOVE

Shiraz McLaren Vale The Medhyk Old Vine 2010
91 points | \$95 | 150 cases imported | Red

Polished, lithe and focused, offering dark berry, mint and spice flavors on a vibrant structure, lingering with power and refinement. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

CASELLA

Cabernet Sauvignon South Australia 1919 2006
91 points | \$100 | 1,148 cases imported | Red

Soft and ripe, layering the black cherry fruit with dusky spice and crème brûlée flavors, lingering harmoniously on the extended finish. A high-end wine from the makers of Yellow Tail. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

JASPER HILL

Riesling Heathcote Georgia's Paddock 2013
91 points | \$37 | 50 cases imported | White

Crisp and vital, with a raw edge to the delicate pear, peach and floral flavors, persisting with poise and harmony on the dry finish. Drink now through 2025.—H.S.

OCHOTA BARRELS

Grenache-Syrah McLaren Vale The Green Room 2013
91 points | \$40 | 224 cases imported | Red

Fresh, vibrant and light-footed, with prominent red berry and cinnamon notes. The long and expressive finish dances along enticingly. Drink now through 2017.—H.S.

ITALY

MASI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico
Campolongo di Torbe 2007
93 points | \$167 | 1,175 cases made | Red

A vibrant red, with a spicy skein unraveling through the flavors of date, kirsch, olive tapanade and dried herb. Harmonious, framed by sinewy tannins and finely tuned, juicy acidity. Drink now through 2027.—A.N.

FATTORIA DI BASCIANO

Colli della Toscana Centrale I Pini 2011
92 points | \$26 | 400 cases imported | Red

Dark and brooding, offering black currant, cedar, toast and mineral flavors, matched to a polished texture. This is well-balanced and long, presenting a mix of fruit, tobacco and spice on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—B.S.

FERRARI

Brut Trento Giulio Ferrari Riserva del Fondatore 2002
92 points | \$100 | 2,920 cases made | Sparkling

Vibrant and harmonious, with a filigreed laciness to the texture and an underpinning of briny minerality layered with flavors of pear tart, roasted almond, candied ginger and kumquat. Well-cut and mouthwatering through to the long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2024.—A.N.

GAJA

Barbaresco 2010
92 points | \$225 | 2,100 cases made | Red

Tinged with new oak that lends a spicy impression, this red evokes cherry, menthol and underbrush notes. Supple and beautifully balanced, with a long finish. Best from 2015 through 2025.—B.S.

GULFI

Sicilia Nerobufaleffj 2008
92 points | \$50 | 60 cases imported | Red

The tangy black raspberry and black cherry fruit is layered with darker notes of date, black licorice and black truffle in this lively and expressive red. Fine-grained tannins give this grip, while accents of chopped herb, spice box and bittersweet chocolate play out on the lingering finish. Nero d'Avola. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

MASI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico
Serègo Alighieri Vaio Armaron 2007
92 points | \$85 | 4,000 cases imported | Red

A grippy, sculpted red, featuring tarry smoke and grilled herb notes that underscore the flavors of date, baker's chocolate, ground anise and baked plum. Tightly wound and burly right now, so give this time. Best from 2017 through 2027.—A.N.

MONTECARIANO DI GINI-GALTAROSSA

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2008
92 points | \$88 | 200 cases imported | Red

Rich and well-sculpted, with finely tuned acidity and a streak of smoky minerality focusing the flavors of plum sauce, black olive and kirsch, accented by aromatic notes of herb and spice. The refined tannins lend grip to the lingering finish. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

MORIS FARMS

Morellino di Scansano Riserva 2010
92 points | \$32 | 16,600 cases made | Red

Intense aromas and flavors of black currant, violet, cedar and tobacco haunt this fresh, brooding red. A dose of oak adds tar and spice notes as this lingers on the finish. Powerful. Best from 2016 through 2024.—B.S.

PODERE IL PALAZZINO

Chianti Classico Argenina 2009
92 points | \$22 | 2,083 cases made | Red

A supple, fruity version, with cherry, licorice, spice and mineral notes embedded in a dense structure. This is firm and long, presenting a long aftertaste that echoes with spice and mineral details. Drink now through 2024.—B.S.

TEDESCHI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico
Capitel Monte Olmi 2008
92 points | \$108 | 200 cases imported | Red

Notes of wild herb, spice box and pekoe tea mark this aromatic red, while grippy tannins frame the tightly knit flavors of dried currant, iron, rhubarb and wood smoke. This traditional style needs air, so enjoy alongside food to get the full effect. Best from 2016 through 2026.—A.N.

ZENATO

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2009
92 points | \$70 | 1,250 cases imported | Red

Subdued notes of dried black cherry, prune, dark chocolate and grilled herb are underscored by smoky *sous-bois* details in this tightly knit, balanced red. The sinewy tannins lend some muscle. Should benefit from short-term cellaring. Best from 2017 through 2027.—A.N.

AVIGNONESI

Vino Nobile di Montepulciano 2011

91 points | \$29 | 5,000 cases imported | Red

An opulent style, featuring black cherry, plum, earth and spice flavors. Full and complex, with fine balance and a lingering aftertaste of tobacco and spice. Best from 2015 through 2024.—*B.S.*

BISCEGLIA

Aglianico del Vulture Gudarrà 2009

91 points | \$25 | 101 cases imported | Red

Richly aromatic, with cedar, spice box and smoke notes. This structured red is balanced and accessible overall, with a core of spiced plum, wild strawberry, seared mushroom and chocolate-covered espresso flavors persisting on the finish. Drink now through 2024.—*A.N.*

FERRARI

Brut Trento Perlé 2007

91 points | \$38 | 47,900 cases made | Sparkling

Mouthwatering and expressive, with expansive flavors of crunchy pear, raspberry, ground ginger, lemon zest and creamed almond showing on the finely textured palate. Delivers good intensity and drive through to the lasting, saline-tinged finish. Drink now through 2024.—*A.N.*

OREGON

EYRIE

Chardonnay Dundee Hills 2012

91 points | \$28 | 396 cases made | White

Sleek, silky and expressive, offering a layered mouthful of pear, floral, mineral and spice flavors on a lovely, open-textured finish. Has elegance and depth. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

RAPTOR RIDGE

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District

Gran Moraine Vineyard 2012

91 points | \$45 | 127 cases made | Red

Taut in structure, with tightly wound blackberry and floral flavors ready to flower as the tannins subside, finishing with hints of peach and jasmine as the finish lingers. Best from 2015 through 2018.—*H.S.*

SINEANN

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District

Yates Conwill Vineyard 2012

91 points | \$42 | 700 cases made | Red

Smooth and round, pulsing with coffee and mineral accents around a core of blackberry and currant flavors, coming together harmoniously on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

ANGELA

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District 2011

90 points | \$45 | 1,600 cases made | Red

Vibrant, with dark berry and floral aromas and flavors on a light frame, gaining momentum as the finish lingers. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

ST. INNOCENT

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Villages Cuvée 2012

90 points | \$26 | 1,621 cases made | Red

Smooth and velvety, with currant, blackberry, tar and hints of meat in a dark, brooding flavor profile. Has intensity without obvious weight. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

SPAIN

BODEGAS ABANICO

Ribera del Duero Cathar Crianza 2009

92 points | \$25 | 2,000 cases imported | Red

Dense and smooth, with expressive flavors of black cherry, blackberry, loamy earth and espresso. The tannins are firm but well-integrated. Fresh acidity balances the structure. Solid. Drink now through 2024.—*T.M.*

PORTAL DEL MONTSANT

Montsant Santbru Carinyenes Vells 2009

92 points | \$45 | 975 cases made | Red

Intense and graceful, this is lithe, with well-integrated tannins and fresh acidity supporting rich flavors of black cherry, licorice, mineral and *garrigue*. Polished, focused and fresh. Cariñena, Garnacha and Syrah. Drink now through 2019.—*T.M.*

BODEGAS RESALTE DE PEÑAFIEL

Ribera del Duero Lecco Reserva 2006

92 points | \$32 | 90 cases imported | Red

Maturing now but still quite elegant, this polished red shows dried cherry, licorice, tobacco and cedar flavors over light, firm tannins and lively acidity. Focused and harmonious. Drink now through 2018.—*T.M.*

BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS URIBES MADERO

Pago Calzadilla OPTA 2008

92 points | \$22 | 300 cases imported | Red

This polished red delivers fine-grained tannins and well-integrated acidity, providing a balanced frame for the plum, mineral, toast and licorice flavors. Harmonious, with good depth. Tempranillo, Syrah and Garnacha. Drink now through 2020.—*T.M.*

BODEGAS RESALTE DE PEÑAFIEL

Ribera del Duero Lecco Crianza 2007

91 points | \$27 | 800 cases imported | Red

This polished red delivers a savory mix of iron, sanguine and smoky notes that frame the core of plum and dried herb flavors. Well-integrated tannins and balsamic acidity keep this focused. A solid, old-school style. Drink now through 2019.—*T.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.

MOLLYDOOKER

Shiraz McLaren Vale Velvet Glove 2012
98 points | \$185 | 317 cases made | Red

Ink-dark and seductively fragrant, this offers blackberry, dark plum and floral flavors, weaving in glints of red earth, cinnamon and licorice as the finish rolls on elegantly. Has depth and finesse for a wine of such power. Drink now through 2024. *From Australia.—H.S.*

MOLLYDOOKER

Shiraz McLaren Vale Carnival of Love 2012
95 points | \$75 | 4,729 cases made | Red

Sinewy, lithe and expressive, packing red berry, black cherry and cardamom aromas and flavors into a tightly focused package. The finish expands and powers up, driving a long and meaty finish. Displays muscle and poise. Drink now through 2022. *From Australia.—H.S.*

MASI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Mazzano 2007
94 points | \$175 | 1,158 cases made | Red

This Amarone offers more savory notes than sweet fruit, with tightly knit flavors of black olive, dried herb and seared mushroom, accented by hints of ground anise and pepper. Delivers depth and length, showing a hint of date on the lasting, mineral finish. Drink now through 2029. *From Italy.—A.N.*

SINEANN

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District
Resonance Vineyard 2012
93 points | \$48 | 900 cases made | Red

Vibrant and expansive, with fine tannins underlining the dark berry, clotted cream, mint and spice flavors, coming together harmoniously as the finish lingers. Drink now through 2019. *From Oregon.—H.S.*

VALENTINA CUBI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Morar 2008
93 points | \$70 | 250 cases imported | Red

A medium-bodied Amarone, showing more finesse than power, with delicate acidity and fine tannins framing the finely knit flavors of dried thyme, rose petal, cherry, seared mushroom and red licorice. Lasting finish. Drink now through 2028. *From Italy.—A.N.*

VASSE FELIX

Chardonnay Margaret River Heytesbury 2012
93 points | \$60 | 120 cases imported | White

Polished, spicy, focused and expressive, gathering the leesy pear and tobacco flavors into a harmonious chord and singing eloquently on the finish. Drink now through 2020. *From Australia.—H.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 ten 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

Thomas Matthews Executive editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Spain

Bruce Sanderson Tasting director, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1993. Tasting beat: Burgundy, Italy

James Molesworth Senior editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Bordeaux, Loire Valley, Rhône Valley, South Africa

MaryAnn Worobiec Senior editor, Napa
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: California, New Zealand

Alison Napjus Senior editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2000. Tasting beat: Alsace, Beaujolais, Champagne, Italy

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