

Wine Spectator Insider

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BURGUNDIAN CHARDONNAYS AND THE BEST OF PORTUGAL punch up this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, an eclectic mix of rare and intriguing single-vineyard cuvées and high-scoring values, with a dozen picks under \$50.

The whites of Chassagne-Montrachet's *premiers crus* entice here, with impressive wines by Bruno Colin, Ramonet and Fernand & Laurent Pillot. Among the reds, there are both tawny Ports and table wines from the Douro, including a 92-pointer at only \$23. For the tawnies, there are releases from venerable houses—Taylor Fladgate, Croft, Niepoort, Fonseca—plus a few *colheita* (single-vintage) bottlings. Argentinean Malbecs round out the report. Check out the six Hot Wines on page 4.

ARGENTINA

VIÑA COBOS

Malbec Mendoza Bramare Marchiori Vineyard 2009
93 points | \$80 | 30 cases imported | Red

A dark, suave red, displaying a creamy mix of blackberry, raspberry and blueberry fruit that glides along the full-bodied frame, with grace notes of graphite, maduro tobacco and mocha hanging on the juicy finish. Drink now through 2017.—*N.W.*

VIÑA COBOS

Malbec Mendoza Bramare Rebon Vineyard 2009
92 points | \$55 | 75 cases imported | Red

A big, fruit-driven red, serving up heady raspberry ganache, blueberry cobbler and grilled black Mission fig notes that pick up steam through the spice- and smoke-filled finish. Drink now through 2016.—*N.W.*

BODEGAS ESCORIHUELA

Malbec Mendoza Don Miguel Gascón Reserva 2009
90 points | \$25 | 6,200 cases imported | Red

Displays a deep, dense core of crushed blackberry, raspberry and light blueberry hints, all finely wrapped with nuances of spice, licorice and fine tannins, as the mineral finish sails on. Drink now through 2015.—*N.W.*

BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS O. FOURNIER

Malbec Uco Valley Alfa Cruz 2008
90 points | \$45 | 800 cases imported | Red

This rich red sports ample layers of toasty oak, spice and roasted coffee notes to the dark plum and fig paste fruit, as firm tannins chime in on the long, dark finish. Needs short-term cellaring. Best from 2013 through 2016.—*N.W.*

FINCA SOPHENIA

Malbec Tupungato Synthesis 2009
90 points | \$34 | 300 cases imported | Red

This toasty yet fresh red offers tangy blackberry, damson plum, blueberry and melted licorice notes that lead to grippy tannins and a long, smoky finish. Drink now.—*N.W.*

FRANCE

Burgundy

BRUNO COLIN

Chassagne-Montrachet Morgeot 2009
93 points | \$82 | 87 cases imported | White

This white boasts some new oak spice aromas and flavors, all well-integrated with the lemon, roasted hazelnut and apple notes. This stays trim, with a mouthwatering impression and lingering aftertaste of butterscotch. Best from 2014 through 2021.—*B.S.*

RAMONET

Chassagne-Montrachet Vergers 2009

93 points | \$80 | 60 cases imported | White

A smoky, oak-infused element runs through this opulent white, shading its peach, apple and butter notes. This melds as it cruises to a long finish, as plenty of butter, pastry and spice accents permeate the aftertaste. Best from 2014 through 2023.—*B.S.*

BRUNO COLIN

Chassagne-Montrachet La Maltroie 2009

92 points | \$75 | 60 cases imported | White

Though rich and luscious, this white is also complex, displaying apple, peach, lemon, spice and savory mineral flavors. There's a little oak that needs to be resolved, but this should develop well. Best from 2014 through 2022.—*B.S.*

BRUNO COLIN

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Vergers 2009

92 points | \$75 | 60 cases imported | White

This broad white features a core of lemon, apple and pineapple flavors, surrounded by loads of vanilla, clove, nutmeg and cardamom notes. This is balanced, in an opulent, oversized way, with butter-scotch accents on the finish. Best from 2013 through 2021.—*B.S.*

FERNAND & LAURENT PILLOT

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Champgains 2009

92 points | \$70 | 175 cases made | White

Floral, citronella, peach and baking spice notes prevail in this intense white. This is lively and defined, showing a creamy texture and long, pastry-filled finish. Best from 2013 through 2022.—*B.S.*

FERNAND & LAURENT PILLOT

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Vergers 2009

92 points | \$70 | 250 cases made | White

A tight, fresh style, boasting lemon, apple and spice flavors, this picks up some mineral elements on the finish. Lively and dynamic, with a fruit- and spice-infused aftertaste. Best from 2014 through 2022.—*B.S.*

PAUL PILLOT

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Champs Gains 2009

92 points | \$75 | 40 cases imported | White

This is elegant, delivering apple and peach flavors tinged with tangerine and light spice notes. Moderately rich, this stays bright and focused through the finish. Best from 2013 through 2021.—*B.S.*

PORTUGAL

Dry Red

QUINTA DO CRASTO

Douro Vinha Maria Teresa 2009

93 points | \$160 | 10 cases imported | Red

An elegant, refined red, with luscious flavors of dark currant, blackberry, boysenberry and spice. Shows interesting tar and chocolate notes as well, with lots of mineral and slate. The creamy finish has a dollop of mocha. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

NIEPOORT

Douro Charme 2009

93 points | \$100 | 19 cases imported | Red

A suave, spicy red, with bright, juicy flavors of cherry, plum tart, currant and sandalwood. Focused, with a pure-tasting finish of cream and cocoa powder, supported by fine tannins. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

WINE & SOUL

Douro Quinta da Manoella Vinhas Velhas 2009

93 points | \$100 | 290 cases made | Red

There's loads of cream and spice in this well-structured and refined red from Portugal, which features flavors of cherry, plum tart and dark currant. Long and juicy on the mineral-infused finish. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

DUORUM

Douro Reserva Old Vines 2009

92 points | \$45 | 600 cases made | Red

This has a distinctive cedary aroma, with flavors to match, as well as raspberry cream, dark plum, currant and kirsch. Medium-grained tannins linger on the finish, with snappy flavors of red licorice and paprika. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

NIEPOORT

Douro Redoma 2009

92 points | \$56 | 52 cases imported | Red

This has a silky texture, with an intense juiciness to the red raspberry, currant and cherry flavors that are fringed by some smoky notes. The long, vibrant finish is crisp and minerally, with white pepper overtones. Drink now through 2017.—*K.M.*

NIEPOORT

Douro Vertente 2009

92 points | \$23 | 112 cases imported | Red

Pure, lush and refined, with plenty of minerality to the vibrant red raspberry, plum and cherry flavors. Zesty notes of black licorice linger on the effusively spicy finish. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

QUINTA NOVA DE NOSSA SENHORA DO CARMO

Douro Clássico Grande Reserva 2009

92 points | \$98 | 666 cases made | Red

Dense and rich, with dark plum, mocha and spiced cherry flavors that feature lipsmacking spiciness, with medium-grained tannins. Licorice and black olive notes are followed by a finish of chocolate mousse and spice. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

QUINTA NOVA DE NOSSA SENHORA DO CARMO

Douro Grande Reserva 2009

91 points | \$98 | 411 cases made | Red

Offers vivid aromas of crushed red fruits, luxuriantly spicy and fruity, with concentrated red currant, red plum and cherry flavors that are supported by loads of fresh acidity. The finish features slate and white pepper. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

RAMOS-PINTO

Douro Collection 2009

91 points | \$25 | 500 cases imported | Red

Vibrant and unctuously fruity, with intense dark plum, raspberry and sweet cherry flavors that are flanked by cream and spice. The crisp finish is filled with tar, chocolate and mineral. Taut and powerful. Just a baby. Best from 2014 through 2022.—*K.M.*

RAMOS-PINTO

Douro Duas Quintas Reserva 2009

91 points | \$44 | 170 cases imported | Red

This has an enticing brooding quality to it, with rich, beefy aromas and sinewy flavors of dried raspberry, roasted plum and currant. Finishes with medium-grained tannins and notes of mineral and savory spice. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

QUINTA NOVA DE NOSSA SENHORA DO CARMO

Douro Referência Grande Reserva 2009

90 points | \$98 | 411 cases made | Red

There's fine balance and exuberance to the muscular green olive, dried cherry and beef flavors. Tannins linger on the finish, with plenty of cedar and spice. Drink now through 2017.—*K.M.*

PORTUGAL Port

NIEPOORT

Tawny Port Colheita 1995

93 points | \$60 | 100 cases imported | Dessert

Luscious and elegant, with plenty of vibrant glazed apricot, citrus and mango flavors. Features cinnamon and anise on the snappy finish, with loads of vanilla and spice. Drink now.—*K.M.*

RAMOS-PINTO

Tawny Port 20 Year Old Quinta do Bom Retiro NV

93 points | \$70 | 700 cases imported | Dessert

This has a pretty amber hue, with complex flavors of smoke, honey, dried herbs and hazelnut. Long and rich on the finish, with zesty hints of anise and concentrated spice and toffee notes. Drink now.—*K.M.*

NIEPOORT

Tawny Port 20 Year Old NV

92 points | \$92 | 75 cases imported | Dessert

A vibrant tawny, with a rich array of dried citrus, apricot and hazelnut flavors that are backed by plenty of fresh acidity. Features white chocolate on the finish. Drink now.—*K.M.*

NIEPOORT

Tawny Port Colheita 1998

92 points | \$53 | 150 cases imported | Dessert

Very fresh for its age and very honeyed, on the amber side, with concentrated dried citrus and butterscotch flavors that linger on the lush, spicy finish. Drink now.—*K.M.*

RAMOS-PINTO

Tawny Port 10 Year Old Quinta da Ervamoira NV

92 points | \$41 | 1,000 cases imported | Dessert

Lusciously spicy, with flavors that roll off the tongue, including butterscotch, dried apricot, spiced cherry and white pepper. The intensely creamy finish is filled with hazelnut and cocoa. Drink now.—*K.M.*

RAMOS-PINTO

Tawny Port 30 Year Old NV

92 points | \$110 | 130 cases imported | Dessert

Redolent of dried apricot and pear, with sage honey notes to the concentrated toffee and butterscotch flavors. The complex finish features dried mango and citrus. Drink now.—*K.M.*

TAYLOR FLADGATE

Tawny Port 20 Year Old NV

92 points | \$55 | 4,000 cases imported | Dessert

Very rich and elegant, this is loaded with flavors of dried apricot, butterscotch and white chocolate. The long and zesty finish is filled with smoke and toffee.—*K.M.*

WINE & SOUL

Tawny Port 10 Years Old NV

92 points | \$50 | 330 cases made | Dessert

Plush, creamy and smoky-tasting, with vibrant white chocolate, hazelnut and dried apricot and pear flavors. Shows accents of dried mango on the richly spicy finish. Drink now.—*K.M.*

NIEPOORT

Tawny Port 10 Year Old NV

91 points | \$50 | 500 cases imported | Dessert

There's lots of chocolate, hazelnut and dried fruit flavors in this elegant tawny, which is very suave, with a long finish that's filled with cream, sandalwood and luscious white fruit flavors. Drink now.—*K.M.*

FONSECA

Tawny Port 10 Year Old NV

90 points | \$35 | 6,000 cases imported | Dessert

Refined, with bright flavors of dried berry, plum compote and cherry tart that are long and lush. Very creamy on the finish, which features chocolate mousse. Drink now.—*K.M.*

TAYLOR FLADGATE

Tawny Port 10 Year Old NV

90 points | \$35 | 10,000 cases imported | Dessert

Snappy, with plenty of ginger and glazed citrus notes to the dried cherry, plum and raspberry flavors. Features loads of chocolate and spice on the long, lush finish, with hints of white pepper. Drink now.—*K.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, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

FONSECA

Tawny Port 20 Year Old NV

94 points | \$55 | 2,000 cases imported | Dessert

Intense, powerful and complex, this features heady aromas and flavors of toffee, marzipan, butterscotch and chocolate. Notes of mocha and French roast chime in as well, with a long, glorious finish of dried white fruits and spice. Drink now. *From Portugal.*—K.M.

WINE & SOUL

Douro Pintas 2009

94 points | \$100 | 460 cases made | Red

Plush and powerful, showing a balanced ripeness to the lipsmacking flavors of blueberry, kirsch and dark plum, with notes of cherry tart that are pure-tasting and feature a bracing minerality. Pepper and slate notes extend on the finish, with hints of black licorice. Drink now through 2020. *From Portugal.*—K.M.

VIÑA COBOS

Malbec Mendoza Marchiori Vineyard 2009

94 points | \$175 | 25 cases imported | Red

A dense, polished red that balances jammy blackberry, raspberry and dark fig notes with juicy acidity and fine, integrated tannins. Exceptionally focused, with a tightly wound finish of spice, olive paste and flint notes. Needs short-term cellaring to fully shine. Best from 2013 through 2018. *From Argentina.*—N.W.

CROFT

Tawny Port 10 Year Old NV

93 points | \$30 | 2,000 cases imported | Dessert

A powerful aroma filled with dried mango and ginger leads into a pure-tasting mix of dried berries, peach and apricot. The heady finish is loaded with caramel, cream and sage honey. Distinctive. Drink now. *From Portugal.*—K.M.

FERNAND & LAURENT PILLOT

Chassagne-Montrachet Morgeot 2009

93 points | \$70 | 270 cases made | White

This exhibits a gorgeous nose of flowers—acacia, citrus blossom, linden—as lemon verbena and mineral notes highlight this elegant, linear white. Harmonious and long, with a citrus and spice aftertaste. Best from 2013 through 2022. *From France.*—B.S.

RAMONET

Chassagne-Montrachet Morgeot 2009

93 points | \$80 | 150 cases imported | White

A big, lush style, very 2009, with peach, lemon cake, vanilla and pastry notes supported by a structure that relies as much on tannins as acidity. This is well-integrated and long on the spice-filled finish. Very Bâtard-like. Best from 2014 through 2022. *From France.*—B.S.

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

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Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 12 people in two offices. They work together to review more than 18,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our six senior tasters count more than 140 years of tasting experience.

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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