

# Wine Spectator Insider

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**A DIVERSE ARRAY OF TERRIFIC REDS AND WHITES**, up to 98 points, populates this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*. The Old World has the edge here, with the massive dry reds from Portugal's 2011 vintage matching their Vintage Port counterparts in quality. Wine & Soul, Prats & Symington, Quinta do Vale Meão and Quinta do Vallado dominate, but don't miss the pair of 93-pointers at \$17 and \$21. Over in France's Rhône Valley, find expressions of Cornas, Hermitage, Côte-Rôtie and more from reliable names such as Guigal, Ogier and Jean-Luc Colombo.

Cabernets, Merlots, Syrahs and Rieslings are the order of the day in Washington and Australia, with some of the best coming from Buty, Abeja, Efeste, Pewsey Vale and Mollydooker. Value hunters will spot that eight wines here are under \$30 and 90-plus points. Check out the five Hot Wines on page 4.

## AUSTRALIA

### PEWSEY VALE

Riesling Eden Valley The Contours Museum Reserve  
10 Year Cellar Aged 2003  
**93 points | \$46 | 25 cases imported | White**

Tangy, with lemon curd and chamomile flavors coming together on the crisp texture, finishing with persistence. A fine example of what Eden Valley Riesling can be with bottle age. And this has years to go. Drink now through 2025.—*H.S.*

### PEWSEY VALE

Riesling Eden Valley The Contours Museum Reserve 2008  
**92 points | \$25 | 60 cases imported | White**

Fresh and zingy, with lemon and pineapple flavors in pinpoint focus, this remains frisky with acidity as the finish lingers. Already shows tremendous depth, and can develop further. Drink now through 2025.—*H.S.*

### HENRY'S DRIVE

Shiraz Padthaway M Reserve 2009  
**91 points | \$50 | 1,150 cases made | Red**

Fresh, vibrant and focused, with a wide range of cherry, black fruit, licorice and smoky notes combining harmoniously and finishing with oomph. A bit hot, but impressive nonetheless. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

### PENLEY

Chertsey Coonawarra 2010  
**91 points | \$50 | 25 cases imported | Red**

Lithe and focused, showing restraint to the pure black currant flavors and hints of tobacco and mineral as the finish lingers. Features fine tannins and a promising deftness. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2015 through 2020.—*H.S.*

### WAKEFIELD

Cabernet Sauvignon Clare Valley St. Andrews  
Single Vineyard Release 2010  
**91 points | \$60 | 250 cases imported | Red**

Firm tannins surround a lean core of ripe currant and blackberry flavors, hinting at licorice as the finish lingers. Shows depth and density without excess weight. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

### WAKEFIELD

Riesling Clare Valley St. Andrews Single Vineyard  
Release 2010  
**91 points | \$40 | 250 cases imported | White**

Light and tangy, with an acidic bite to the green apple and lime flavors. A hint of anise enlivens the long finish. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

## CHATEAU TANUNDA

Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Noble Baron 2009

**90 points | \$50 | 250 cases imported | Red**

Ripe and expressive, with savory notes of coffee and wet stone adding nuances to the ripe currant flavors, coming together gracefully in this dense version. Best after 2015.—*H.S.*

## HEARTLAND

Shiraz Langhorne Creek 2012

**90 points | \$20 | 1,000 cases imported | Red**

Supple, ripe and splashy, with brash blackberry, green olive and tomato leaf flavors, coming together into a savory, persistent finish. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

## MOLLYDOOKER

Cabernet Sauvignon South Australia The Maitre D' 2012

**90 points | \$25 | 2,717 cases imported | Red**

Dark, dense and mildly chewy, bursting with black coffee-accented blackberry and black cherry flavors, persisting on the expressive, ripe finish. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

## WAKEFIELD

Riesling Clare Valley 2013

**90 points | \$17 | 500 cases imported | White**

Fresh and tangy, offering complex flavors of apricot, green guava, lime and white pepper as the dry, silky finish lingers. Drink now through 2025.—*H.S.*

# FRANCE

## Rhône

### JEAN-LUC COLOMBO

Cornas Les Ruchets 2011

**93 points | \$85 | 810 cases made | Red**

Solidly built, with charcoal and ganache notes up front, revealing dark plum, currant paste and fig flavors at the core for balance. The long, olive-tinged finish has ample grip for the cellar. Best from 2016 through 2026.—*J.M.*

### MICHEL & STÉPHANE OGIER

Côte-Rôtie 2011

**93 points | \$138 | 100 cases imported | Red**

This offers aromas and flavors of black tea, mulled plum and cherry preserves, with a piercing iron note underneath. Presents a silky feel on the long, refined finish. Drink now through 2021.—*J.M.*

### PIERRE-JEAN VILLA

Côte-Rôtie Carmina 2011

**93 points | \$90 | 20 cases imported | Red**

Alluring, with dark tea and sanguine notes backed by suave black cherry, black currant and plum flavors. Fine-grained and very long, with a swirl of black tea through the finish that leads to an iron echo. Drink now through 2021.—*J.M.*

## M. CHAPOUTIER

Hermitage Monier de la Sizeranne 2011

**92 points | \$125 | 1,000 cases imported | Red**

Ripe, presenting a lovely ensemble of loganberry, raspberry and blackberry fruit at the core, backed by singed anise, alder and briar notes. Shows good energy through the finish, with a back-drop of mulled spice that should emerge with cellaring. Best from 2015 through 2021.—*J.M.*

## JEAN-LUC COLOMBO

Cornas Terres Brûlées 2011

**92 points | \$48 | 2,020 cases made | Red**

Features a juicy edge, with bramble and anise notes lining the core of plum, red currant and raspberry fruit. Enticing spice details and a flicker of bay move through the finish. Best from 2015 through 2025.—*J.M.*

## E. GUIGAL

Hermitage 2007

**92 points | \$88 | 150 cases imported | Red**

A dark, loamy style, with cocoa powder, espresso and ganache notes melded with the core of dark plum, blackberry compote and plum pâte de fruit flavors. Hitting its stride now, this delivers a long, fleshy finish. Drink now through 2019.—*J.M.*

## MICHEL & STÉPHANE OGIER

St.-Joseph 2011

**91 points | \$148 | 100 cases imported | Red**

Delicious boysenberry and raspberry fruit glides along, with a sleek graphite spine and a long, spice- and anise-framed finish. Drink now through 2017.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE LA BOUTINIÈRE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2011

**90 points | \$50 | 98 cases imported | Red**

The juicy flavors of cherry compote and plum preserves are studied with anise, rooibos tea and fruitcake notes. The finish is lined with a subtle sandalwood accent. A pretty, silky style. Drink now through 2021.—*J.M.*

## E. GUIGAL

Gigondas 2010

**90 points | \$37 | 2,200 cases imported | Red**

Ripe, with notes of mulling spices weaving around the core of steeped plum and macerated currant fruit. Hints of licorice snap, wood spice and black tea fill in on the fleshy finish. Drink now through 2017.—*J.M.*

## MICHEL & STÉPHANE OGIER

Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes L'Âme Soeur 2011

**90 points | \$87 | 20 cases imported | Red**

Offers pure cassis, white pepper and violet notes, with a long, sleek finish. An iron hint fills in the background. Drink now through 2015.—*J.M.*

# PORTUGAL

## Douro / Red

### CHURCHILL

Douro Churchill's Estates 2011

**93 points | \$17 | 750 cases imported | Red**

A meaty, rich and brooding red, with plenty of mocha to the dark plum, dried blackberry and baker's chocolate flavors. Presents accents of smoked paprika midpalate, offering a finish filled with restrained tannins. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

### DELAFORCE

Touriga Nacional Douro 2011

**93 points | \$21 | 1,000 cases made | Red**

Effusively fruity, showing good cut to the lively raspberry, dark cherry and blackberry flavors, lush and pure. Offers caressing tannins, with vanilla and strawberry cream notes that linger on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*K.M.*

# WASHINGTON

## Red

### BUTY

Connor Lee Vineyard Columbia Valley 2011

**93 points | \$45 | 282 cases made | Red**

A joyous mouthful of raspberry, black cherry, dark plum and sweet red pepper plays against polished tannins on a deftly balanced, medium-weight frame, finishing with presence. Hints at a meaty note as the finish lingers. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

### MATTHEWS

Syrah Columbia Valley 2011

**93 points | \$38 | 386 cases made | Red**

Poised, expressive and layered with rose petal-accented black cherry, berry and spicy meat flavors, all coming together harmoniously as the finish lingers. The tannins are well-integrated. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

### ABEJA

Cabernet Sauvignon Walla Walla Valley Heather Hill 2010

**92 points | \$55 | 288 cases made | Red**

Vibrant, expansive and expressive, with red pepper and red berry flavors showing dramatically on a medium-weight frame, coming together against refined tannins on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

### BUTY

Columbia Rediviva Phinny Hill Vineyard

Horse Heaven Hills 2010

**91 points | \$50 | 242 cases made | Red**

Fresh and lively, with a sleek feel to the red berry, pomegranate and floral aromas and flavors, dancing deftly through fine tannins on the refined finish. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

### DUSTED VALLEY

Wallywood Columbia Valley 2011

**91 points | \$42 | 120 cases made | Red**

Fresh and vibrant, with expressive blueberry and cassis flavors, shaded with mineral and pepper notes that linger enticingly on the open finish. Syrah, Mourvèdre and Petite Sirah. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

### EFESTE

Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley

Big Papa Old Block 2010

**91 points | \$54 | 1,073 cases made | Red**

Firm and chewy, presenting a swarm of grippy tannins around a core of blueberry and green olive flavors, lingering enticingly as the finish opens up. Best from 2016 through 2020.—*H.S.*

### EFESTE

Final-Final Columbia Valley 2010

**91 points | \$28 | 3,711 cases made | Red**

Broad and generous, with focus to the black currant, blackberry, licorice and herb flavors, persisting against crunchy tannins as the finish expands. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Best from 2016 through 2020.—*H.S.*

### FORT WALLA WALLA

Merlot Walla Walla Valley Pepper Bridge 2009

**91 points | \$45 | 135 cases made | Red**

Lively, focused and refreshingly balanced, playing the red berry, rose petal and black tea flavors against refined tannins, lingering through the deft finish. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

### GÅRD

Vaucluse Lawrence Vineyards Columbia Valley 2011

**91 points | \$33 | 160 cases made | Red**

Sleek and refreshing, with tingly acidity under a polished, open-weave frame of black currant and peppery spice notes, lingering easily on the polished finish. Syrah, Grenache and Viognier. Best from 2015 through 2020.—*H.S.*

### MARK RYAN

Long Haul Red Mountain 2011

**91 points | \$48 | 1,050 cases made | Red**

Firm in texture, but the grippy tannins play well with the ripe, gently herbal cherry and clotted cream flavors, which persist on a medium-weight frame. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Best from 2015 through 2018.—*H.S.*

### TAMARACK

Merlot Columbia Valley 2010

**91 points | \$28 | 900 cases made | Red**

Taut and compelling, packed with focused, licorice-scented blackberry and wet earth flavors. A fine layer of tannins drapes like a veil over the long finish. Best from 2015 through 2020.—*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.

## WINE & SOUL

Douro Pintas 2011

**98 points | \$100 | 457 cases made | Red**

Rich, well-crafted and full of refinement, this red offers powerful flavors of dried sage, crushed red plum and succulent dark berry, supported by fresh acidity and silky tannins. Long and lush on the rich finish, which is filled with vibrant spicy notes. Best from 2015 through 2025. *From Portugal.—K.M.*

## PRATS & SYMINGTON

Douro Chryseia 2011

**97 points | \$55 | 2,400 cases made | Red**

An elegant and monolithic red, pure and powerful, with hints of lushness to the concentrated red plum, raspberry and dark currant flavors. This is filled with a black olive and baker's chocolate notes, backed up by grippy tannins. Finishes with refined accents of slate and white pepper. Best from 2016 through 2022. *From Portugal.—K.M.*

## QUINTA DO VALE MEÃO

Douro 2011

**97 points | \$76 | 1,000 cases imported | Red**

A lush, seductive red, filled to the brim with an array of dark fruit and kirsch flavors, accented by plenty of cream and spice notes. Silky tannins and molten chocolate hints add richness. The long finish echoes with mineral and white pepper details. Best from 2015 through 2022. *From Portugal.—K.M.*

## QUINTA DO VALLADO

Douro Field Blend Reserva 2011

**96 points | \$65 | 500 cases imported | Red**

Sinewy yet refined, with impressive power behind the firm, crisp flavors of dark plum, olive and boysenberry, matched to notes of tarragon. Presents focused minerality midpalate, offering a long, vibrant finish of dried wild herb and slate. Best from 2015 through 2022. *From Portugal.—K.M.*

## WINE & SOUL

Douro Pintas Character 2011

**94 points | \$40 | 457 cases made | Red**

Sleek and pure, with a zesty edge to the powerful and intense flavors of dried sage, red plum and currant, offering notes of flint. Delivers a fine balance of tannins and acidity, presenting a sinewy texture that exudes bittersweet chocolate accents on the finish. Best from 2016 through 2022. *From Portugal.—K.M.*

## 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 10 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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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat:

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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