

# Wine Spectator Insider

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**FOUR CLASSIC-RATED WINES, CABERNETS AND CHARDONNAYS** from Napa and Oregon, top this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*. Pinot Noirs and sparkling wines fill out the domestic offerings, which include achievers from Evening Land, Argyle, Rex Hill, GTS, Paloma, Alpha Omega and Chimney Rock.

Complementing these are dry, off-dry and sweet Chenin Blancs from France's Loire Valley. A 1985 library release from Domaine Huët excels among these attractively priced whites. See six of this week's best, the Hot Wines, on page 4.

## CALIFORNIA

### ALPHA OMEGA

Era Napa Valley 2008

**94 points | \$195 | 700 cases made | Red**

Presents a potent mix of dark berry fruit, with touches of spice, espresso, mineral and cedar. Full-blown yet graceful, ending with rich mocha-chocolate brownie, graphite and fresh earth notes. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2013 through 2024.—*J.L.*

### ALTAMURA

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2008

**94 points | \$85 | 3,000 cases made | Red**

Combines very ripe, spicy dark berry fruit that's even a touch racy, with a firm backbone and a well-structured mix of acidity and tannins. The fruit is potent and concentrated, yet also shows a suppleness and measure of grace. Should only get better. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

### CELANI FAMILY

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Ardore 2007

**93 points | \$195 | 236 cases made | Red**

Beautifully crafted, rich and polished, with layers of ripe plum, black currant, cedar, spice and tobacco flavors. Full-bodied, deep and persistent, ending with subtle mocha and espresso notes. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

### ERNA SCHEIN

Cabernet Sauvignon Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley Moulds Family Vineyard 2008

**93 points | \$75 | 168 cases made | Red**

Dense, rich and extracted, with enticing dark berry, espresso, mocha and graphite. Full-blown, yet graceful and stylish, finishing with a long, persistent and layered finish. Best from 2012 through 2024.—*J.L.*

### CHIMNEY ROCK

Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Clone 7 2008

**92 points | \$80 | 476 cases made | Red**

Combines firm, ripe, rich and extracted flavors of currant, cedar, blackberry and mineral with a sense of suppleness. The flavors build on the palate, ending with hints of mint, herb, cedar and espresso. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*J.L.*

## FRANCE

### Loire

#### DOMAINE HUËT

Vouvray Sec Le Mont 2010

**93 points | \$33 | 500 cases imported | White**

Dry and racy, with a very chiseled feel to the powdered ginger, fig and pear flavors, with a bracing edge on the finish. Still rather tightly drawn now, this should unfurl nicely with some cellaring. Best from 2013 through 2018.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE DU PETIT MÉTRIS

Coteaux du Layon-Chaume Les Tétuères 2009  
**93 points | \$50 | 20 cases imported | Dessert**

Richly layered, with dense date, fig, glazed peach, apricot and mango notes all enlivened with notes of ginger and orange blossom. Sweet but precise through the finish, with a dried peach note adding length. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE HUËT

Vouvray Sec Clos du Bourg 2010  
**92 points | \$33 | 250 cases imported | White**

Dry on the edges, but with a slightly plump feel to the core of white peach, ginger and melon fruit. A quinine edge frames the finish, which picks up a green almond hint as well. This has more power in reserve than most Vouvrais. Best from 2012 through 2018.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE HUËT

Vouvray Sec Le Haut-Lieu 2010  
**92 points | \$28 | 1,000 cases imported | White**

Superracy, floral and pure, with enticing ginger, quince and mineral notes that ripple through the filigreed finish. Lovely orange blossom and honeysuckle notes fill in the background. Dry, but still generous, with impressive length. Best from 2013 through 2018.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE DU PETIT MÉTRIS

Coteaux du Layon-Chaume 2009  
**92 points | \$35 | 50 cases imported | Dessert**

Sweet but racy, with a green tea note framing the date, apricot, glazed tangerine and dried persimmon notes. A ginger edge adds length on the elegant finish. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

## CHÂTEAU DE LA ROULERIE

Coteaux du Layon 2010  
**92 points | \$20 | 250 cases imported | Dessert**

This races from the start, with mouthwateringly ripe apricot, peach and clementine flavors layered with candied orange peel and date notes. The long finish lets sweet and tangy notes play out beautifully. Drink now through 2018.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE DE LA TAILLE AUX LOUPS

Vouvray Sec Les Caburoches 2010  
**92 points | \$24 | 125 cases imported | White**

Racy and pure, with long, filigreed ginger, orange blossom, persimmon and fig notes that extend through the very mineral finish. This has cut and precision. Drink now through 2017.—*J.M.*

## BENOIT GAUTIER

Vouvray Sec Clos La Lanterne 2009  
**91 points | \$26 | 480 cases made | White**

A delicious pure, unadorned core of pear, quince and fig fruit is offset nicely by a dry powdered ginger underpinning. The long finish lets the quince note linger as this picks up an almost off-dry hint. Drink now through 2017.—*J.M.*

## GUY SAGET

Vouvray Marie de Beauregard 2009  
**91 points | \$18 | 1,200 cases imported | White**

Ripe and mouthfilling, with layers of pear eau de vie, quince, dried persimmon and ginger that unfold slowly, all while a lively mineral-ity cuts through. The long finish shows lovely definition. Drink now through 2016.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE BOURILLON-DORLÉANS

Vouvray Demi-Sec La Bourdonnerie 2010  
**90 points | \$22 | 1,700 cases made | White**

Quite forward, with a flattering, off-dry edge to the pear, quince, brioche and ginger notes, which are offset by a twinge of green plum on the finish. Drink now through 2013.—*J.M.*

## J.-C. PICHOT

Vouvray Domaine Le Peu de la Moriette 2010  
**90 points | \$19 | 7,400 cases imported | White**

Juicy and nicely wound, with a core of pear and quince fruit in reserve, held in check for now by a snappy green apple note that cuts through on the finish. Best from 2012 through 2015.—*J.M.*

## OREGON EVENING LAND

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard  
Summum 2009  
**94 points | \$120 | 96 cases made | Red**

Delicate, ethereal style is light on its feet, its red berry and Earl Grey tea flavors gliding easily through the long, expressive finish. Gets more interesting with each sip, finishing harmonious and elegant. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

## ARGYLE

Extended Tirage Willamette Valley 2001  
**93 points | \$60 | 1,012 cases made | Sparkling**

Lithe and silky, elegant and refined, with subtle white pepper and spicy floral hints weaving through the grapefruit and pineapple flavors. Finishes with deft balance. Impressive for its length. Drink now.—*H.S.*

## ARGYLE

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Spirithouse 2008  
**93 points | \$75 | 1,000 cases made | Red**

Light, with a savory edge to the panoply of raspberry, chamomile and floral flavors, remaining vivid and focused through the long, expressive finish. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

## AYOUB

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Estate 2009  
**93 points | \$55 | 425 cases made | Red**

Silky, subtle and expressive, offering a lovely, transparent mouthful of cherry, blackberry and cinnamon flavors that remain aloft and lively through the long finish against well-buffed tannins. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

## CHEHALEM

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Stoller 2009  
**93 points | \$48 | 464 cases made | Red**

Light and juicy, this is bright with plum and currant fruit playing against refined tannins and fragile acidity, lingering on the transparent finish. This has all the elements, just needs cellaring. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

## REX HILL

Chardonnay Willamette Valley Dijon Clone 2009  
**93 points | \$35 | 162 cases made | White**

Polished, focused and appealing for its creamy pear, lemon and mineral flavors, riding easily over refined acidity into the long, vivid finish. This has style and grace. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

## REX HILL

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Alloro Vineyard 2008  
**93 points | \$52 | 98 cases made | Red**

Lithe and velvety, with rich plum and currant fruit balanced with racy acidity, finishing persistently, with hints of tar and spice on an elegant frame. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

## REX HILL

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Sims Vineyard 2008  
**93 points | \$52 | 95 cases made | Red**

Elegant and refined, this red is generous with its cherry, blueberry, rhubarb and sandalwood aromas and flavors, mingling easily and effectively as the finish persists. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

## SIDURI

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Hawk's View Vineyard 2009  
**93 points | \$39 | 146 cases made | Red**

Light and refined, delivering a lovely, lilted mouthful of black cherry, red currant, coffee and delicate spice notes that remain transparent and elegant through the expressive finish. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

## DE LANCELOTTI

Chardonnay Chehalem Mountains 2009  
**92 points | \$45 | 50 cases made | White**

Supple and open-textured, hitting pear, peach, grapefruit and cream notes as this spins into the deft and appealing finish. Impressive for its poise and balance. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

## EVENING LAND

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard 2009  
**92 points | \$45 | 1,528 cases made | Red**

Crisp, with a layer of gritty tannins around berry and plum flavors, with a nice mineral character to the finish. Best from 2013 through 2019.—*H.S.*

## EVENING LAND

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard La Source 2009  
**92 points | \$60 | 422 cases made | Red**

Light and tangy, with hints of blueberry and plum behind the raspberry and slate flavors up front, lingering nicely on the delicate finish. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

## ARGYLE

Brut Dundee Hills Knudsen Vineyard 2007  
**91 points | \$50 | 682 cases made | Sparkling**

Crisp and lively, with lots of clove and nutmeg around a gentle bead of lemon curd, finishing with refinement. Drink now.—*H.S.*

## ARGYLE

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Nuthouse 2009  
**91 points | \$50 | 2,500 cases made | Red**

Light and vibrant, this is juicy with cherry and raspberry fruit, picking up a floral note as the finish lingers enticingly. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

## BERGSTRÖM

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Bergström Vineyard 2009  
**91 points | \$78 | 700 cases made | Red**

Firm in texture and light in structure, with an earthy edge to the ripe cherry and dark chocolate flavors, lingering on the expressive finish. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

## CHEHALEM

Chardonnay Dundee Hills Stoller Vineyards Ian's Reserve 2009  
**91 points | \$36 | 484 cases made | White**

Light and open-textured, with a hint of tangerine to the green apple and floral flavors, lingering easily on the poised, lively finish. Drink now through 2014.—*H.S.*

## EVENING LAND

Chardonnay Eola-Amity Hills Mad Hatter 2009  
**91 points | \$45 | 220 cases made | White**

Taut, tangy, mineral and distinctive for its lemon blossom, grapefruit peel and green pear flavors, persisting easily on the sleek, racy finish. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

## ARGYLE

Blanc de Blancs Dundee Hills Knudsen Vineyard Julia Lee's Block 2007  
**90 points | \$50 | 540 cases made | Sparkling**

Bright and spicy, this is crisp in texture and taut, with ginger and clove overtones to the pear flavors, lingering easily. Drink now.—*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, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

## EVENING LAND

Chardonnay Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard La Source 2009

**97 points | \$60 | 487 cases made | White**

Vibrant and poised, balancing its intense flavor profile of pear, quince and lemon blossom with layers of minerality on an electric structure that sparks with beautifully modulated acidity. A stunning white that has tremendous depth and presence. Drink now through 2020. *From Oregon.—H.S.*

## GTS

Cabernet Sauvignon Diamond Mountain District Seaver Family Vineyards 2008

**97 points | \$95 | 350 cases made | Red**

A gorgeous wine, rich and layered, this is tight yet with a wide range of complex flavors that are focused and tapered, with a layered mix of mocha, espresso, ripe wild berry, sage and cedar. Most impressive on the finish, where the flavors sail on. The GTS stands for George Thomas Seaver, brand owner and Hall of Fame MLB pitcher. Drink now through 2026. *From California.—J.L.*

## EVENING LAND

Chardonnay Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs Vineyard Summum 2009

**95 points | \$120 | 289 cases made | White**

Elegant, refined and racy, offering a taut mouthful of mineral, slate and chalk notes around a zingy core of lemon and quince flavors that don't quit as the finish soars. Seems almost reticent, but the flavors keep hovering with amazing delicacy. Drink now through 2020. *From Oregon.—H.S.*

## PALOMA

Cabernet Sauvignon Spring Mountain District 2009

**95 points | \$54 | 440 cases made | Red**

Delivers a complex mix of zesty, vibrant wild berry, raspberry, currant and blackberry fruit in a firm yet seamless way. Full-bodied and gaining with every sip, this ends with complex mix of espresso and wild berry. Best from 2013 through 2025. *From California.—J.L.*

## DOMAINE HUËT

Vouvray Moelleux Le Mont 1985

**94 points | \$75 | 50 cases imported | Dessert**

Fully mature, offering gorgeous warm lemon scone, marzipan, dried peach and glazed apricot notes that seamlessly glide through the long, ginger cream-framed finish. This still has fresh acidity buried deep, which lets everything hang together with surprising persistence on the finish. No botrytis, just shriveled grapes in this vintage. A library release from the winery's cellar. Drink now through 2014. *From France.—J.M.*

## DOMAINE DU PETIT MÉTRIS

Quarts de Chaume 2009

**94 points | \$65/500ml | 30 cases imported | Dessert**

Very rich and flattering, with unctuous apricot, glazed peach, mango, date and papaya notes that course along, with a racy ginger and orange zest streak adding support on the finish. Drink now through 2020. *From France.—J.M.*

## WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

### The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

*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.

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; their initials identify the taster of each wine reviewed. We score wines using the 100-point scale, explained below.

**James Laube** Senior editor, Napa

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: California

**Kim Marcus** Managing editor, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Austria, Greece, Port, Portugal, Southern France

#### 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

**Thomas Matthews** Executive editor, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: New York, Spain

**James Molesworth** Senior editor, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Argentina, Bordeaux, Chile, Finger Lakes, Loire Valley, Rhône Valley, South Africa

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