

Wine Spectator Insider

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REDS FROM NEW WORLD INNOVATORS LIKE NAPA'S BEVAN CELLARS and Pahlmeyer, Sonoma's Siduri and Australia's d'Arenberg elevate this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*. For white wine lovers, creamy Châteauneuf-du-Papes from France's Southern Rhône Valley and a variety of unusual styles from South Africa offer plenty.

In addition to Napa Bordeaux blends and single-vineyard California Pinot Noir, sparkling staple J Vineyards Late Disgorged 2001 has been released, Tardieu-Laurent adds a feather to the cap of Rhône whites and a Shiraz from tag team Domaine Terlato & Chapoutier shows a sleek, minerally style for Australia. Six of the best, the Hot Wines, are on page 4.

AUSTRALIA

D'ARENBERG

Shiraz McLaren Vale The Little Venice Single Vineyard 2009

92 points | \$90 | 200 cases imported | Red

Focused, tight, harmonious and complex, offering a straight shot of cherry, tobacco, mineral and spice flavors that keep singing through the long, vivid finish. Best from 2014 through 2020.—*H.S.*

D'ARENBERG

Grenache McLaren Vale The Blewitt Springs 2009

91 points | \$90 | 200 cases imported | Red

Dark and spicy, this red is soft in texture, brimming with blackberry, smoke and wet slate flavors that linger on the open finish. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

MITOLO

Shiraz McLaren Vale G.A.M. 2009

91 points | \$55 | 400 cases imported | Red

This rich red is redolent of tobacco, roasted game and spices around a core of dark cherry and berry flavors, playing against fine tannins. Best from 2014 through 2020.—*H.S.*

D'ARENBERG

Grenache McLaren Vale The Beautiful View 2009

90 points | \$90 | 200 cases imported | Red

Drying, grippy tannins surround a sweet core of cinnamon-accented raspberry flavors, lingering on the focused finish. This needs time to show what it has. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

D'ARENBERG

Shiraz McLaren Vale The Fruit Bat Single Vineyard 2009

90 points | \$90 | 200 cases imported | Red

Very firm, with a biting edge to the tannins, but also lovely blackberry and floral flavors that flow into the finish. Best from 2014 through 2019.—*H.S.*

CALIFORNIA

BABCOCK

Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Psi Clone 2010

93 points | \$60 | 229 cases made | Red

Combines ripe, rich, dense and concentrated flavors with a measure of finesse and grace. Full-bodied and expansive, opening flavor doors to black cherry, plum, anise and cedar, all tightly focused and persistent. Drink now through 2019.—*J.L.*

BEVAN CELLARS

Ontogeny Oakville 2008

93 points | \$58 | 486 cases made | Red

Rich and generous, with layers of dark berry, mocha, spice and cedar flavors. Full-bodied and concentrated, with a long, persistent, mouthcoating finish. Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

EPOCH

Zinfandel Paso Robles Paderewski Vineyard 2009
93 points | \$50 | 209 cases made | Red

Bold and muscular, this is not for the faint of heart, but it's so rich and well-structured that it hooks you, with aromas of blackberry and mocha leading to ripe, dense huckleberry, bitter chocolate and spice flavors. Drink now through 2017.—*T.F.*

FERRARI-CARANO

Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Reserve 2009
93 points | \$32 | 3,435 cases made | White

Sleek and focused, exhibiting rich, clean and pure white peach and nectarine flavors that show shades of hazelnut and cream, with a long, tapered finish. Drink now through 2017.—*J.L.*

SIDURI

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Parsons' Vineyard 2010
93 points | \$45 | 197 cases made | Red

Intense and chewy, yet pure, deep and focused, with a rich, persistent delivery of ripe plum, blackberry, spice, mineral and cedar flavors that gain depth and complexity. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

SKYWALKER

Pinot Noir Marin County 2009
93 points | \$70 | 140 cases made | Red

A brilliant effort, with tiers of rich plum, wild berry, raspberry and spice flavors, turning firm and minerally. Ends with a long, persistent finish that's elegant. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

WRATH

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands McIntyre Vineyard 2009
93 points | \$40 | 140 cases made | Red

Rich-textured, deep and firm, with complex boysenberry, blackberry and wild berry fruit that's tight, focused, structured and persistent, gaining nicely on the finish, where the berry flavors are persistent. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

CELANI FAMILY

Chardonnay Napa Valley 2009
92 points | \$40 | 458 cases made | White

Smooth, rich and focused, with pure fig, melon, honeysuckle and citrus flavors. Full-bodied, ending with a long, graceful finish. Drink now through 2018.—*J.L.*

J

Brut Russian River Valley Vintage Late Disgorged 2001
92 points | \$90 | 145 cases made | Sparkling

Elegant and layered, with brioche and lemon tart aromas and rich, supple flavors of baked apple and almond biscotti. A winning late-disgorged sparkler. Drink now through 2016.—*T.F.*

J

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Bateman Vineyard 2009
91 points | \$60 | 100 cases made | Red

Complex aromas and dense, pure flavors build around ripe raspberry, plum and wild berry. Spicy and full, gaining depth and dimension. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

FRANCE

Rhône

DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Cuvée Barberini 2009
93 points | \$76 | 150 cases made | White

A lush, slightly languid style, with a brioche profile leading the way, followed by creamed melon and pear flavors moving gently behind. The rounded, open, flattering finish has nice weight and mouthfeel. Drink now through 2013.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE FONT DE MICHELLE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Cuvée Etienne Gonnet 2009
92 points | \$45 | 290 cases made | White

This has turned creamy and flattering, with a brioche note leading the way for macadamia nut, melon and pear flavors that glide through with a lush feel. A lovely paraffin hint checks in on the finish. Drink now through 2013.—*J.M.*

VIGNOBLES JÉRÔME QUIOT

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Les Combes d'Arnevel 2009
92 points | \$39 | 80 cases imported | White

This mouthfilling white offers deliciously ripe but pure Jonagold apple, Bosc pear and starfruit notes, with hints of verbena, fennel and salted butter. The long, pure finish has lovely cut and persistence. Drink now through 2015.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE FONT DE MICHELLE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2010
91 points | \$45 | 655 cases made | White

A bright, floral style, with lively honeysuckle and orange blossom flavors backed by white peach, chamomile and green almond notes. The fresh finish lets the flavors hang nicely. Drink now through 2013.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2010
91 points | \$49 | 1,000 cases made | White

This is crunchy and creamy at the same time, with lively Jonagold apple and melon notes offsetting each other, while chamomile, heather and salted butter fill in on the finish. Defined and racy. Drink now through 2014.—*J.M.*

RAYMOND USSEGLIO & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2009
91 points | \$53 | 50 cases imported | White

Lovely creamed melon, pear and green fig flavors course along, framed by a brioche note and a twinge of hazelnut on the finish. Juicy and long. Drink now through 2013.—*J.M.*

CUVÉE DU VATICAN

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Château Sixtine 2010
90 points | \$60 | 180 cases made | White

A ripe, toasty, slightly nutty style, with enticing butter, toasted brioche, warm pound cake, lemon cream and heather notes all gliding through the showy finish. Perhaps a bit overt for some, but this has depth and length. Drink now.—*J.M.*

CHÂTEAU MONT-REDON

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2010

90 points | \$40 | 350 cases imported | White

A racy style, with a hint of talcum powder giving way to kaffir lime, melon rind and green fig flavors, backed by a lingering pear eau de vie note on the finish. Drink now through 2014.—*J.M.*

SOUTH AFRICA

CAPE POINT VINEYARDS

Isliedh Cape Point 2010

93 points | \$65 | 14 cases imported | White

This distinctive white deftly mixes Jonagold apple and melon fruit with more bracing tarragon and gooseberry hints, all backed by strong chamomile and quinine notes on the racy finish. Should develop nicely with modest cellaring. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2014.—*J.M.*

REYNEKE

Reserve White Stellenbosch 2010

93 points | \$40 | 25 cases imported | White

Gorgeous from start to finish, with alluring toasted brioche and straw notes laid over pure Meyer lemon, chamomile, salted butter and blanched almond flavors. The long finish has great cut. Drink now through 2014.—*J.M.*

CAPE POINT VINEYARDS

Sauvignon Blanc Cape Point Reserve 2010

92 points | \$45 | 42 cases imported | White

This is a rapier, with gooseberry, pippin apple and salted butter notes tightly wound and coursing through the long, quinine-tinged finish. Shows serious cut, but isn't just bony, as this has the depth for balance. Drink now through 2014.—*J.M.*

KEN FORRESTER

Noble Late Harvest T Stellenbosch 2009

92 points | \$55/375ml | 50 cases imported | Dessert

Very enticing, with glazed peach, ginger and creamed pear notes backed by a lingering note of orange zest. Plump and racy, with the contrast bringing you back for another sip. Great length. Chenin Blanc. Drink now through 2015.—*J.M.*

BARTINNEY

Cabernet Sauvignon Stellenbosch 2009

91 points | \$30 | 450 cases imported | Red

A very solid, tightly wound Cabernet, with a core of cassis and fig fruit in reserve, held in check for now by ample grip and mouth-watering iron, tobacco and black tea notes. Pure finish. Should unwind nicely. Drink now through 2015.—*J.M.*

DE WETSHOF

Chardonnay Robertson Bateleur 2009

91 points | \$58 | 600 cases made | White

A very flattering style, with a toasted hazelnut frame to the creamed pear, fig and lush melon fruit flavors. Long and refined through the finish, with lovely mouthfeel. Drink now.—*J.M.*

REYNEKE

Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch 2011

91 points | \$25 | 250 cases imported | White

This has nice underlying richness, with paraffin and pound cake notes, but stays racy, with pink grapefruit, straw, verbena and honeysuckle notes stretching through the long, well-focused finish. Delicious. Drink now through 2013.—*J.M.*

REYNEKE

Syrah Stellenbosch 2010

91 points | \$25 | 100 cases imported | Red

This is alluring, with lots of smoldering black tea leaf and maduro tobacco notes giving way slowly to melted licorice snap, currant paste and braised fig flavors. Long and supple through the finish, with flitters of spice. Drink now through 2015.—*J.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.

BEVAN CELLARS

Sugarloaf Mountain The Whitney Napa Valley 2009
95 points | \$150 | 100 cases made | Red

A gorgeous effort that offers pure, complex aromas of cassia, kirsch, melted black licorice, spice, cedar and tobacco, all well-distributed, gaining momentum and ending with a long, persistent, layered finish. Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Drink now through 2022. *From California.—J.L.*

PAHLMAYER

Merlot Napa Valley 2009
94 points | \$75 | 1,600 cases made | Red

Plush and richly structured, but with a dense, structured core, offering aromas of red currant and toasty mocha that lead to complex flavors of black cherry and Asian spice. Loamy, ripe tannins sneak in on the finish. Drink now through 2018. *From California.—T.F.*

BUITENVERWACHTING

Maximus Constantia 2009
93 points | \$40 | 5 cases imported | White

This has impressive breadth, with warm brioche, tangerine and clementine notes backed by peach and heather. Then hints of cumin and bitter orange add cut and length on the finish. Unique and thoroughly intriguing. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2014. *From South Africa.—J.M.*

SIDURI

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Rosella's Vineyard 2010
93 points | \$49 | 582 cases made | Red

Slow to reveal, but does so offering depth, intensity, focus and complexity, unveiling a mix of spicy wild berry, mushroom, loamy earth, anise and dried berry flavors that are well-proportioned and persistent. Drink now through 2020. *From California.—J.L.*

TARDIEU-LAURENT

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Vieilles Vignes 2010
93 points | \$68 | 50 cases imported | White

Rich and flattering up front, with an enticing mix of pear, yellow apple and melon flavors layered nicely together, backed by melon rind and blanched almond notes that add a racy feel on the still-muscular finish. An impressive combination of freshness and power. Drink now through 2014. *From France.—J.M.*

DOMAINE TERLATO & CHAPOUTIER

Shiraz Pyrenees L-Block 2008
93 points | \$60 | 220 cases imported | Red

Firm in texture, focusing its mineral-accented ripe blackberry and black pepper flavors over a sleek structure and into the long, vivid finish. Best from 2013 through 2018. *From Australia.—H.S.*

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

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

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