

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

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CLASSIC-RATED CHARDONNAYS FROM BURGUNDY lead this week's edition of the *Wine Spectator Insider*, with a 97-point Chevalier-Montrachet topping the list of 16 French whites. From Spain, a range of outstanding reds are included here, from Rioja, Ribera del Duero, Toro and Priorat.

Finally, crisp, zesty whites and full-bodied rustic reds from southern Italy complete this week's report, with attractively priced Greco di Tufo, Fiano di Avellino, Negroamaro and Primitivo, and a \$38, 93-point Aglianico del Vulture, which you'll find among the Hot Wines, on page 4.

FRANCE Burgundy / White

J.-A. FERRET

Pouilly-Fuissé Le Clos Tête de Cru 2011

93 points | \$55 | 75 cases imported | White

Fresh and lively, exuding apple, lemon and spice flavors, this white is graceful and expressive. Stays vibrant on the mouthwatering finish, featuring an extra kick of mineral on the long aftertaste. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

SERVIN

Chablis Vaillons 2011

93 points | \$32 | 100 cases imported | White

This is flinty, showing mineral elements combining with apple and citrus notes, all playing off a vivid acidity. Features a creamy texture, fine harmony and a lingering aftertaste of fruit, earth and stone. Drink now through 2022.—*B.S.*

THÉVENET & FILS

Viré-Clessé Quintaine Domaine de la Bongran 2005

93 points | \$40 | 600 cases imported | White

Fully mature, this white features caramel, honey, spiced apple and bacon fat flavors. Sinks into the palate, unfolding into a long, expansive aftertaste of spiced apple and caramel. Charming. Drink now.—*B.S.*

CHÂTEAU FUISSÉ

Pouilly-Fuissé Le Clos 2011

92 points | \$70 | 70 cases imported | White

Starts out subtly, with lemon cake, apple and spice flavors wrapped around a spine of acidity. As the grip loosens, a mineral element emerges, accompanied by a hint of butterscotch. Powerful and alluring. Drink now through 2019.—*B.S.*

CHÂTEAU FUISSÉ

Pouilly-Fuissé Vieilles Vignes 2011

92 points | \$70 | 50 cases imported | White

A rich, polished style, whose butterscotch and apple flavors take on light citrus and mineral tones on the long finish. Displays an innate sense of power aligned to grace and restraint. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

CHÂTEAU DE MALIGNY

Chablis Vau de Vey 2011

92 points | \$35 | 500 cases imported | White

Ample aromas and flavors of melon, lemon and oyster shell hit all the right notes in this well-integrated white. Fresh and vibrant, delivering a long aftertaste of citrus and flint. Drink now through 2022.—*B.S.*

PATRICK PIUZE

Chablis Montée de Tonnerre 2011

92 points | \$56 | 133 cases imported | White

A crisp, complex version, boasting floral, apple, lemon, mineral and savory notes punctuated by a vibrant structure. Well-integrated, with a long aftertaste of citrus and stone. Best from 2015 through 2022.—*B.S.*

THÉVENET & FILS

Viré-Clessé Quintaine Domaine Émilien Gillet 2008
92 points | \$27 | 350 cases imported | White

Showing some maturity, this white offers beeswax, quince paste, lily and lemon aromas and flavors. Concentrated, complex and fresh, featuring a lingering aftertaste of lemon cake and mineral. Distinctive. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE FAIVELEY

Mercurey White Clos Rochette 2010
91 points | \$30 | 600 cases imported | White

This has some power, with peach, apple and spice notes. A hint of grapefruit enters on the finish. Shows fine balance and length overall. Drink now through 2016.—*B.S.*

ALEX GAMBAL

St.-Aubin Les Murgers des Dents de Chien 2010
91 points | \$55 | 300 cases made | White

Shows some heft to the smoke, peach, apple, citrus and mineral aromas and flavors, remaining fresh and focused though the long, stone-tinged finish. Best from 2015 through 2022.—*B.S.*

PATRICK PIUZE

Chablis Les Forêts 2011
91 points | \$46 | 134 cases imported | White

There's an intensity to the lemon, pear and sweet spice flavors in this lean and balanced white. The citrus note echoes on the vibrant finish. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

CATHERINE & PASCAL ROLLET

Pouilly-Fuissé Domaine de la Chapelle
Les Grands Climats 2011
91 points | \$29 | 250 cases imported | White

Defined by an apple flavor, this offers underlying notes of grapefruit and spice. Well-integrated, with a supple and polished texture and a terrific finish. A winner. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

VAL DE MER

Chablis Les Forêts 2011
91 points | \$52 | 200 cases imported | White

A touch of oak lends a spicy, vanilla component to this white, complemented by apple and lemon flavors. This is linear and vibrant, with a lingering, citrus-tinged finish. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

ITALY

Southern Italy

CONTRADE DI TAURASI

Taurasi Cantine Lonardo Vigne d'Alto 2007
92 points | \$70 | 111 cases made | Red

Notes of smoke, baking spices and licorice mark the jammy blackberry fruit character of this red, framed by full tannins. Earth, leather and olive accents fill the long finish. Drink now through 2018.—*N.W.*

MACARICO

Aglianico del Vulture Macari' 2007
92 points | \$25 | 150 cases imported | Red

This dark red offers concentrated black cherry reduction, cassis, pine, hot stone and dark tobacco notes. Well-integrated, delivering fresh acidity and fine tannins. Drink now through 2018.—*N.W.*

D'ANGELO

Aglianico del Vulture Caselle Riserva 2006
91 points | \$45 | 250 cases imported | Red

Rustic yet refined, showing some mature notes of game and seared mushroom to the sun-dried black cherry, blackberry, pine and mineral accents. Drink now through 2016.—*N.W.*

COLLI DI LAPIO

Taurasi Vigna Andrea 2008
91 points | \$48 | 330 cases made | Red

A dense, compact red, delivering a well-integrated mix of macerated blackberry, cassis, exotic spices and tobacco. Shows some grip, but the tannins are tame. The finish ends with an aftertaste of iron. Drink now through 2018.—*N.W.*

SOTTO IL SOLE

Negroamaro Salento 2007
91 points | \$17 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

This dense red offers a compact core of racy cassis and macerated blackberry notes that reveal mature hints of tobacco, leather and seared mushroom. The fruit returns on the long, mineral finish. Drink now through 2017.—*N.W.*

D'ANGELO

Aglianico del Vulture 2009
90 points | \$20 | 500 cases imported | Red

A suave version, offering gamy dark cherry and wild berry fruit, fine tannins and fresh acidity, with nuances of incense, tobacco and wild herb gracing the finish. Drink now through 2018.—*N.W.*

CIRO PICARIELLO

Fiano di Avellino 2010
90 points | \$25 | 1,250 cases made | White

A concentrated and crisp white, offering pulpy grapefruit, pineapple, spice and chalk notes that follow through to a smoky finish. Drink now.—*N.W.*

TENUTA DEL PORTALE

Aglianico del Vulture Le Vigne a Capanno 2008
90 points | \$23 | 100 cases imported | Red

Ripe yet rustic, with jammy dark cherry, licorice, wild herb, tobacco and chewy tannins on a full-bodied frame. Drink now through 2016.—*N.W.*

SOTTO IL SOLE

Primitivo Salento 2007
90 points | \$19 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Dark yet refined, with juicy acidity balancing the ripe plum and dark cherry notes, accompanied by full, fine tannins. Layers of tar, spice and leather linger on the fine finish. Drink now.—*N.W.*

TERREDORA DI PAOLO

Greco di Tufo Loggia Della Serra 2011

90 points | \$21 | 13,333 cases made | White

Zesty, with spice-accented citrus, green plum, wild herb and mineral. Well-structured for a white, this boasts juicy acidity that keeps the long finish focused. Drink now.—*N.W.*

TERREDORA DI PAOLO

Taurasi Fatica Contadina 2008

90 points | \$32 | 4,160 cases made | Red

This rustic red leads with tobacco and charred herb notes to the firm blackberry and dark currant fruit, giving way to a firm after-taste of iron and game. Drink now through 2018.—*N.W.*

SPAIN

Red

BODEGAS LAN

Rioja Edición Limitada 2009

93 points | \$50 | 500 cases imported | Red

Dense and focused, this bold red delivers rich flavors of blackberry, currant, licorice, toast and mineral. The muscular tannins are well-integrated, balanced by fresh acidity, while the finish delivers a mix of floral, spicy and vanilla notes. Drink now through 2020.—*T.M.*

ÁLVARO PALACIOS

Priorat Les Terrasses Velles Vinyes 2011

93 points | \$40 | 1,200 cases imported | Red

A light texture carries racy, intense flavors in this expressive red, with bright cherry, licorice, mineral, *garrigue* and spice notes mingling over light tannins and buoyed by lively acidity. Balanced, focused and elegant, featuring a lingering finish. Drink now through 2021.—*T.M.*

BODEGAS EXEO

Garnacha Rioja Cifras 2010

92 points | \$30 | 50 cases imported | Red

Toasty and floral aromas give way to bright, juicy flavors of cherry, boysenberry and vanilla, backed by firm tannins and crisp acidity. Big, focused and expressive. Drink now through 2020.—*T.M.*

BODEGAS BERONIA

Rioja Gran Reserva 2006

91 points | \$33 | 3,500 cases imported | Red

This harmonious red is dense and lively, with plum, licorice, smoke and mineral flavors supported by moderate tannins and fresh acidity. Not assertive, but with enough drive to carry it through the floral finish. Drink now through 2018.—*T.M.*

MAS IGNEUS

Priorat Vinyes De Coster Igneus 2010

91 points | \$40 | 2,675 cases made | Red

Cherry, licorice, black pepper and mineral notes mingle in this polished red. Expressive, focused and balanced, with herbal and spice notes adding interest to the finish. Drink now through 2018.—*T.M.*

BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS MAUROS

Toro San Román 2009

91 points | \$70 | 1,650 cases imported | Red

Alluring notes of violet, cardamom and cocoa frame cherry, licorice and toast accents in this expressive red. The solid structure lends depth, while the juicy acidity maintains freshness. Tinto de Toro. Drink now through 2020.—*T.M.*

CONDADO DE HAZA

Ribera del Duero Crianza 2009

90 points | \$30 | 40,000 cases made | Red

Juicy black cherry and red plum flavors mingle with notes of licorice, black pepper and toast in this firm, fresh red. Displays enough structure for food but remains balanced and lively. Drink now through 2017.—*T.M.*

J. & F. LURTON

Toro Campo Alegre 2010

90 points | \$59 | 112 cases imported | Red

This expressive red offers floral, citrus, licorice and vanilla notes around a core of raspberry and cherry fruit. Smooth yet racy, with modest tannins, bright acidity and a clean, sweet finish. Drink now through 2020.—*T.M.*

BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS MAUROS

Toro Prima 2010

90 points | \$24 | 4,500 cases imported | Red

This polished red shows harmonious flavors of black cherry, chocolate, licorice and mineral, with well-integrated tannins and fine acidity. Not showy, but retaining depth and focus. Tinta de Toro and Garnacha. Drink now through 2020.—*T.M.*

BODEGAS MARQUÉS DE MURRIETA

Rioja Castillo Ygay Gran Reserva Especial 2005

90 points | \$85 | 1,500 cases imported | Red

This broad red offers rich, maturing flavors of plum, raisin, tobacco, smoke and tar, with chewy tannins and balsamic acidity. Not refined, but showing a lively personality and enough stuffing to improve. Drink now through 2018.—*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.

PHILIPPE COLIN

Chevalier-Montrachet 2010

97 points | \$320 | 80 cases imported | White

This is clean, focused and reserved, featuring lemon, lime, peach, vanilla and toast flavors, with intriguing spice and mineral notes. Taut and bracing, this ties up all the elements neatly on the long finish. Best from 2016 through 2030. *From France.—B.S.*

LUCIEN LE MOINE

Meursault Perrières 2010

95 points | \$162 | 20 cases imported | White

Distinctive oak aromas of bacon fat overlay apple, lemon, spice and mineral flavors in this sleek, vibrant white. Balanced, needing some time to integrate all the elements, this displays excellent length, with a savory, mineral aftertaste. Best from 2015 through 2028. *From France.—B.S.*

BODEGAS EXOPTO

Rioja 2010

94 points | \$71 | 100 cases imported | Red

Cherry, plum and cassis fruit flavors mingle with toast, spice and licorice notes in this expressive, harmonious red. The texture is plush yet fresh, with rich, well-integrated tannins and juicy acidity, giving way to a leafy, floral finish. Drink now through 2020. *From Spain.—T.M.*

LOUIS LATOUR

Bâtard-Montrachet 2010

94 points | \$299 | 280 cases imported | White

A creamy style, with a lush texture permeated by peach, white flowers, lemon chiffon and mineral flavors. Harmonious and graceful, with a languid, lingering aftertaste of citrus and mineral. Very classy. Best from 2015 through 2030. *From France.—B.S.*

BODEGAS LOS ASTRALES

Ribera del Duero Christina 2010

93 points | \$90 | 100 cases imported | Red

The blackberry and currant flavors mingle with toast, tar, licorice and bitter chocolate notes in this muscular red. Austere, but focused and racy, this leads to a floral, smoky finish. Best from 2014 through 2024. *From Spain.—T.M.*

MACARICO

Aglianico del Vulture 2007

93 points | \$38 | 150 cases imported | Red

A ripe, full-bodied red, sporting pure black cherry coulis, macerated blackberry, underbrush and tar notes framed by full tannins. Heady, boasting a long aftertaste of fruit and licorice. Drink now through 2018. *From Italy.—N.W.*

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).

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2001. Tasting beat: California

James Laube Senior editor, Napa

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1981. Tasting beat: California

Kim Marcus Managing editor, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Austria, Germany, Greece, Portugal, southern France

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Spain

James Molesworth Senior editor, New York

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

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2000. Tasting beat: Alsace, Beaujolais, Champagne, Italy

Bruce Sanderson Tasting director, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1993. Tasting beat: Burgundy, Italy

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: Australia, Oregon, Washington

Nathan Wesley Senior editor, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2005. Tasting beat: Argentina, Chile, Italy

MaryAnn Worobiec Senior editor, Napa

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: California, New Zealand

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