

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

DIVERSE STYLES TO PLEASE EVERY PALATE make up this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, with wines from France and the United States, up to 95 points. This is a report of the most exciting wines our editors have discovered in the tasting room in recent weeks.

Stellar Chardonnays from Burgundy stalwarts Domaine des Comtes Lafon and Ramonet offer vibrant flavors and mouthwatering complexity, while a varied selection of reds from the Rhône and Loire valleys make fine companions for a cool fall night. Sparklers from esteemed U.S. houses Argyle, Iron Horse and Schramsberg round this out. Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.

FRANCE Burgundy / White

DOMAINE DES COMTES LAFON

Meursault Porusots 2014

94 points | \$285 | 4 cases imported | White

A lean, take-no-prisoners approach, with racy acidity underscoring Granny Smith apple, lemon and stone flavors, all accented by baking spice notes. This is beginning to come together, offering a long, lemony aftertaste. Drink now through 2025.—*B.S.*

CHANDON DE BRIAILLES

Corton-Charlemagne 2015

93 points | \$219 | 10 cases imported | White

Lean and tightly coiled, with a good dose of new oak spice shading lemon, apple and pastry flavors. This is all about structure, creating intensity and austerity that will take a few years to resolve. Best from 2022 through 2033.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE DES COMTES LAFON

Meursault Clos de la Barre 2014

93 points | \$130 | 15 cases imported | White

This intense white is packed with vibrant lemon, apple, mineral and spice flavors, tipping toward the acidic side of the balance now, with a mouthwatering finish that really stretches out. Give this some time. Best from 2019 through 2028.—*B.S.*

MICHEL NIELLON

Chassagne-Montrachet Clos de la Maltroie 2015

93 points | \$125 | 100 cases imported | White

A ripe style, verging on exotic, offering apricot, peach and oak spice flavors. This is immediately appealing, yet features lively acidity driving the finish. Best from 2019 through 2027.—*B.S.*

MICHEL NIELLON

Chassagne-Montrachet Clos St.-Jean 2015

93 points | \$125 | 80 cases imported | White

This is plush and laced with peach, apple, oak spice and mineral flavors. Vibrant acidity keeps this focused as the elements play out on the long, green olive-, mineral- and spice-tinged finish. Best from 2020 through 2026.—*B.S.*

MICHEL NIELLON

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Champgains 2015

93 points | \$125 | 120 cases imported | White

This white shows nice tension between the lush apple, peach and mineral elements, all accented by notes of sweet baking spices. Unifying acidity drives the long, mineral-saturated aftertaste. Offers fine balance and length. Best from 2019 through 2027.—*B.S.*

MICHEL NIELLON

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Chaumées

Clos de la Truffière 2015

93 points | \$125 | 70 cases imported | White

A ripe, creamy style, yet with ample acidity framing the apple, lemon, vanilla and baking spice flavors. Balanced and complex, tightening up on the pastry-tinged finish. Best from 2019 through 2028.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE DE BELLENE

Savigny-lès-Beaune White 2015

92 points | \$52 | 100 cases imported | White

Lemon cake, apple tart and sweet spice notes highlight this intense, sleek white. Complex and balanced, with the opulent texture offset by tangy acidity. Terrific length. Drink now through 2022.—*B.S.*

CHANDON DE BRIAILLES

Pernand-Vergelesses White Île des Vergelesses 2015

92 points | \$80 | 55 cases imported | White

The lush texture creates the backdrop for ripe apple, white peach, citrus and spice in this expressive white. The vibrant structure shows as this plays out on the long, citrus- and stone-tinged finish. Best from 2020 through 2029.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE DES COMTES LAFON

Meursault 2014

92 points | \$105 | 4 cases imported | White

A creamy style that weaves together peach, spice and mineral flavors, with a buttery edge. Remains long and balanced for a fresh, focused finish. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

RAMONET

Chassagne-Montrachet Abbaye de Morgeot 2015

92 points | \$110 | 10 cases imported | White

A tautness in this white reins in the peach, apple butter and spice flavors. Verges on a mineral accent as the finish plays out. Leaves a juicy impression on the aftertaste. Drink now through 2024.—*B.S.*

RAMONET

St.-Aubin Les Charmois 2015

92 points | \$80 | 15 cases imported | White

This is rich, with an enticing mix of seashore, oyster shell, acacia and butter flavors. Harmonious and long, this lingers gracefully, with butterscotch, pastry and mineral notes. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

FRANCE

Reds

PHILIPPE ALLIET

Chinon Coteau de Noiré 2014

93 points | \$43 | 75 cases imported | Red

This has a fleshy, smoldering profile, with bay leaf, tobacco and loam notes rolling through, while olive, black currant and singed alder details follow closely behind. Shows lots of character and energy. Drink now through 2025.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DESMEURE

Hermitage Domaine des Remizières Cuvée Emilie 2015

93 points | \$70 | 60 cases imported | Red

Intense, with inviting blackberry puree, plum reduction and cassis notes coursing through, with a buried graphite edge providing spine. Licorice snap, roasted juniper and warm fruitcake details fill in on the finish, while the fruit drives through. Best from 2020 through 2028.—*J.M.*

BENJAMIN & DAVID DUCLAUX

Côte-Rôtie Maison Rouge 2015

93 points | \$105 | 70 cases imported | Red

This sports the ample, dark, juicy fruit of the vintage, with lots of plum compote, blackberry puree and cherry reduction notes, all inlaid with ample singed alder, tobacco leaf and tea accents. Shows solid grip but stays refined, letting the fruit and wood harmonize through the finish. Best from 2019 through 2029.—*J.M.*

E. GUIGAL

Côte-Rôtie Brune et Blonde 2013

93 points | \$78 | 600 cases imported | Red

Especially for the vintage, this is chock-full of lightly mulled plum, black currant and raspberry fruit laced liberally with singed alder and juniper threads. Lots of smoldering tobacco and dark tea notes through the finish, with a sanguine element as well. Best from 2019 through 2028.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE MICHELAS-ST.-JEMMS

Hermitage Terres d'Arce 2013

93 points | \$96 | 50 cases imported | Red

This has nice ripeness, with a mix of lightly mulled red currant, plum and cherry fruit, all inlaid with fine-grained structure and singed alder and tea notes. Offers persistent flesh and remains well-integrated through the finish, with some latent grip. Best from 2019 through 2028.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE LES PALLIÈRES

Gigondas Terrasse du Diable 2015

93 points | \$40 | 700 cases imported | Red

Dark and focused, with cassis, blackberry and black currant fruit flavors spliced together, racing along atop mouthwatering bramble, lavender and rosemary accents. A bright iron streak pierces the finish, adding lift and range. Best from 2019 through 2027.—*J.M.*

BERTRAND STEHELIN

Gigondas 2015

93 points | \$28 | 3,500 cases made | Red

This rather seductive red delivers subtle, persistent nuance, with rich cassis, plum and blackberry fruit flavors that are remarkably pure and silky in feel, while light lavender, violet and incense notes weave in through the finish. Drink now through 2028.—*J.M.*

PHILIPPE ALLIET

Chinon 2016

92 points | \$23 | 250 cases imported | Red

Very fresh, with violet, cassis and bay leaf notes streaming through, allied to sleek acidity and fine chalky structure, backed by alluring bergamot, tea and floral notes on the finish. Hard to resist, but will gain nuance and additional range with cellaring. Drink now through 2028.—*J.M.*

PHILIPPE ALLIET

Chinon L'Huisserie 2014

92 points | \$35 | 75 cases imported | Red

A broad and toasty style, with notes of singed bay leaf and cedar amid the core of steeped olive, black currant and plum notes. Dark tea and tobacco leaf accents score the finish. An extroverted style, but the typicity is there. Drink now through 2024.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA BUTTE

Bourgueil Le Pied de la Butte 2016

92 points | \$25 | 200 cases imported | Red

A bright bay leaf note leads the way, with racy cherry, blood orange and red currant elements following behind. Light savory and olive hints chime through the finish, with a light chalky spine adding length. Very fresh and pure. Drink now through 2028.—*J.M.*

JEAN DEYDIER & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Clefs d'Or 2015

92 points | \$40 | 175 cases imported | Red

Ripe, with lush raspberry and blackberry confiture notes that stretch out languidly over very silky tannins, picking up light tea, shiso leaf and anise accents along the way. An echo of chalky minerality drifts through, adding length and range. Best from 2019 through 2028.—*J.M.*

BENJAMIN & DAVID DUCLAUX

Côte-Rôtie La Germine 2015

92 points | \$75 | 200 cases imported | Red

Very solid, with a tightly coiled core of red currant, blackberry and bitter cherry fruit wrapped with licorice root, tobacco and iron notes. The singed alder frame gently guides everything along, finishing with nice tension on the finish. Best from 2019 through 2027.—*J.M.*

E. GUIGAL

Hermitage 2012

92 points | \$80 | 120 cases imported | Red

Mature, with smoky tobacco and roasted alder and juniper notes wafting up from the core of gently mulled plum and blackberry fruit. Light sanguine and iron accents glide through the finish, giving this an elegant feel despite the slightly woody profile. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE MICHELAS-ST.-JEMMS

St.-Joseph Terres d'Arce 2015

92 points | \$54 | 28 cases imported | Red

This sports a spice box of singed wood, tea, tobacco and incense aromas, backed by a solid core of steeped plum and black currant fruit. Frankly toasty through the finish, with a strong licorice root note matched by fleshy fruit. Best from 2019 through 2028.—*J.M.*

UNITED STATES Sparkling

GOLDENEYE

Brut Rosé Anderson Valley 2014

92 points | \$56 | 370 cases made | Sparkling

Spirited and expressive, with toasty cinnamon roll and strawberry aromas and zesty, full-flavored blood orange, spice and hazelnut flavors. Drink now.—*T.F.*

ARGYLE

Brut Rosé Willamette Valley Artisan Series 2013

91 points | \$50 | 2,025 cases made | Sparkling

A lovely and delicate rosé, with expressive strawberry and watermelon notes accented by ginger and spice. Drink now.—*T.F.*

ARGYLE

Brut Willamette Valley Extended Tirage

Master Series 2007

91 points | \$75 | 1,305 cases made | Sparkling

Expressive Asian pear and spicy yeast aromas open to richly layered ginger, citrus and blanched almond flavors that linger. Drink now.—*T.F.*

IRON HORSE

Blanc de Blancs Green Valley of Russian River Valley

Ocean Reserve 2013

91 points | \$50 | 1,500 cases made | Sparkling

Sleek and expressive, with baked apple, spice and mineral aromas and lovely, precise lime, kiwifruit and almond flavors. Drink now.—*T.F.*

SCHRAMSBERG

Reserve North Coast 2008

91 points | \$120 | 1,267 cases made | Sparkling

Appealingly mature, with candied ginger and spice aromas and spirited baked apple, orange zest and toasty hazelnut flavors. Drink now.—*T.F.*

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.

DOMAINE DES COMTES LAFON

Meursault Charmes 2014

95 points | \$215 | 9 cases imported | White

A racy style, sporting floral, lemon, stone and baking spice aromas and flavors. Stays lean and intense from start to finish, with a chalky, stony sensation and a lemon zest aftertaste. Best from 2022 through 2035. *From France.*—B.S.

RAMONET

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Chaumées 2015

95 points | \$125 | 20 cases imported | White

A racy version, this features apple, lemon cake, vanilla and mineral aromas and flavors. Tightly knit and supple, with a very long, spice- and mineral-tinged aftertaste. Best from 2020 through 2030. *From France.*—B.S.

DOMAINE COURBIS

Cornas Les Eygats 2015

94 points | \$70 | 40 cases imported | Red

Ripe and well-built, with a core of raspberry, blackberry and plum pâte de fruit flavors still coiled up, while graphite, anise and tar notes hold sway for now. Has excellent drive and energy, and will be a winner when the elements meld fully. Best from 2020 through 2030. *From France.*—J.M.

CHANDON DE BRIAILLES

Corton White 2015

94 points | \$174 | 35 cases imported | White

An intense white, with bracing acidity driving peach, floral and pastry flavors. Stays persistent as the flavors unfold to a long, mineral- and spice-laced aftertaste. Best from 2021 through 2033. *From France.*—B.S.

MICHEL NIELLON

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Vergers 2015

94 points | \$125 | 80 cases imported | White

Sleek and ripe, with bright flavors of baking spices surrounding notes of peach, apple and stone. Harmonious, intense and long, lingering with stone and oyster shell accents. Best from 2020 through 2030. *From France.*—B.S.

RAMONET

Chassagne-Montrachet Boudriotte 2015

94 points | \$125 | 60 cases imported | White

Taut and well-oaked, this delivers lemon cake, apple and baking spice flavors. Balanced on the lean side, gaining richness with air. The elements dovetail with a tactile feel on the long finish. Best from 2021 through 2028. *From France.*—B.S.

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 16 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 11 tasters count more than 220 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: California

Harvey Steiman Editor at large, San Francisco
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1984. Tasting beat: At large

Kim Marcus Senior editor, Napa
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat:
Argentina, California, Chile

Thomas Matthews Executive editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat:
Spain

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

James Molesworth Senior editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Bordeaux, Loire Valley, Port, Rhône Valley, South Africa

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

Tim Fish Senior editor, Napa
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2001. Tasting beat: California, Oregon, Washington

Gillian Sciarretta Tasting coordinator, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2012. Tasting beat:
France, Portugal

Aleksandar Zecevic, Associate tasting coordinator, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2013. Tasting beat:
Germany

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