

Wine Spectator Insider

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A PAIR OF CLASSIC NAPA CABERNET SAUVIGNONS FROM THE 2013 VINTAGE tops this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, leading a pack of stellar wines from Australia, France and Italy. This is a report of wines that have most excited our editors in recent tastings.

California Cabernet standouts from Schrader Cellars, Harlan Estate and Paul Hobbs offer contrast to fresh bubbly and luscious whites from the Golden State. Christian Moreau Père & Fils excels with Chardonnay in France's Chablis region, while E. Guigal and Michel & Stéphane Ogier deliver exceptional reds from the Rhône. Tuscan treasures from Tenuta di Trinoro and Castello di Ama impress. Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.

AUSTRALIA

BK

Syrah Adelaide Hills Cult Lobethal Single Vineyard 2014
92 points | \$45 | 200 cases imported | Red

Bursting with white pepper and dried violet aromas, this features black tea and huckleberry flavors. Generous, juicy and intense on the long, velvety finish. Best after 2016.—*M.W.*

JAMSHEED

Syrah Pyrenees Pyren 2014
92 points | \$60 | 56 cases imported | Red

Shows density to the sandalwood, dried violet and wild blackberry flavors, with mesquite and white pepper details that are intense and expressive. Very detailed on the long finish, revealing gravelly tannins. Drink now through 2026.—*M.W.*

JAMSHEED

Syrah Yarra Valley Seville 2014
92 points | \$60 | 56 cases imported | Red

Dense and thick, with layers of espresso, mineral, black tea and violet, showing crushed raspberry and cherry flavors that are juicy and bright. Complex and aromatic on the long, expressive finish. Drink now through 2026.—*M.W.*

DANDELION

Menagerie Of The Barossa Barossa 2013
91 points | \$20 | 300 cases imported | Red

Oozing rich black licorice, espresso and date flavors, this is expressive and generous, with velvety tannins and a spicy black tea note lingering on the finish. Grenache, Shiraz and Mataro. Drink now through 2026.—*M.W.*

CALIFORNIA

ALTAMURA

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2013
94 points | \$96 | 3,800 cases made | Red

A powerful and potent youngster, teaming with rich, layered dark berry, licorice, black walnut, savory herb and cedary oak flavors. Sails along on the finish, courted by chewy, extracted tannins that add to the traction and definition. Drink now through 2032.—*J.L.*

PAUL HOBBS

Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard 2013
94 points | \$265 | 752 cases made | Red

Beautifully crafted, this sleek version is focused on snappy red and dark berry flavors, with dusty earth accents and seductive cedar- and mocha-accented oak. Glides along gracefully on the finish. Drink now through 2030.—*J.L.*

ALPHA OMEGA

Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford Beckstoffer
Georges III 2013
93 points | \$200 | 297 cases made | Red

Exhibits fresh-turned earth, cedar and spice scents, with road tar and dried dark berry notes folding in, supported by firm, fine-grained tannins. Ends with a complex mix of savory Cabernet flavors. Drink now through 2030.—*J.L.*

GLORIA FERRER

Brut Carneros Carneros Cuvée Late Disgorged 2005
93 points | \$75 | 2,000 cases made | Sparkling

A rich and decadent style, with bold aromas of Asian pear and warm brioche that open to crisp yet luscious and succulent flavors of baked apple, lemon custard and spice. Drink now.—*TF*

HALL

Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District 2013
93 points | \$160 | 1,077 cases made | Red

Offers explosive, dense fruit, with blackberry, wild berry, black licorice, savory herb and underbrush flavors, showing touches of cigar box and tobacco leaf. Ends with a sustained burst of flavor. Drink now through 2028.—*J.L.*

MAYBACH

Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Eterium
B. Thieriot Vineyard 2014
93 points | \$90 | 62 cases made | White

Offers enticing aromas of wilted white flowers, pithy peach and nectarine that are intense, vibrant, mouthwatering and flinty, with limestone and mineral notes. Drink now.—*J.L.*

PETER MICHAEL

Les Pavots Knights Valley 2013
93 points | \$195 | 3,650 cases made | Red

Tightly coiled and slow to reveal its strengths, with dusty dark berry, licorice, road tar, cedar and graphite flavors, ending with a touch of mocha and creamy vanilla. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2020 through 2032.—*J.L.*

SHAFER

Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros
Red Shoulder Ranch 2014
93 points | \$52 | 6,700 cases made | White

Elegance and finesse define the pear, melon and honeysuckle flavors, which are lingering and persistent. The creamy texture features a touch of pithy citrus skin, adding to the nuance and complexity. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

ALPHA OMEGA

Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Beckstoffer
Missouri Hopper 2013
92 points | \$200 | 200 cases made | Red

Tight and intense, with crisp acidity and pointed fine-grained tannins cloaking the licorice, blackberry and wild berry flavors, accented by savory, crushed-rock minerality. Best from 2020 through 2030.—*J.L.*

BERINGER

Cabernet Sauvignon Mount Veeder Lampyridae Vineyard
Single Vineyard 2012
92 points | \$110 | 210 cases made | Red

Presents a dense, earth- and graphite-laced mix of dark berry, cedary oak, crushed rock and wild berry notes. Shows impressive grace and refinement, ending with a medley of dominant flavor themes and a persistent finish. Drink now through 2029.—*J.L.*

FRANCE

Chablis

CHRISTIAN MOREAU PÈRE & FILS

Chablis Les Clos Clos des Hospices 2014
95 points | \$149 | 75 cases imported | White

Apple and stone flavors give off a cool reserve in this minerally white. Rich and creamy, with the lively acidity boosting the intensity and driving the long aftertaste of lemon and stone. Best from 2018 through 2029.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE LAROCHE

Chablis Les Blanchots 2014
93 points | \$110 | 100 cases imported | White

A linear, tightly wound style, boasting lemon, green apple, chalk and light herbal notes. Firm and stony on the lingering finish, showing fine balance overall. Delivers great cut and purity. Best from 2018 through 2027.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE LAROCHE

Chablis Les Blanchots Réserve de l'Obéissance 2014
93 points | \$185 | 35 cases imported | White

Sleek and vibrant, with apple, lemon, stone and fresh green herbal flavors fused to the vivid structure. Shows fine intensity, leaving a firm, mouthwatering impression. Best from 2018 through 2025.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE LAROCHE

Chablis Les Clos 2014
93 points | \$157 | 80 cases imported | White

Though creamy in texture, good cut keeps this white racy and focused, setting the stage for lemon, apple, white peach and mineral flavors that stretch out on the long finish. Deftly balanced. Best from 2018 through 2027.—*B.S.*

CHRISTIAN MOREAU PÈRE & FILS

Chablis Vaillon Cuvée Guy Moreau 2014
93 points | \$57 | 50 cases imported | White

A hint of vanilla shades the peach, apple, lemon and bitter grapefruit flavors in this rich, ripe white. Refined, with searing acidity and a mouthwatering finish. Needs time to integrate fully. Best from 2018 through 2026.—*B.S.*

CHRISTIAN MOREAU PÈRE & FILS

Chablis Valmur 2014

93 points | \$101 | 100 cases imported | White

Exhibiting peach, apple and lemon aromas and flavors, this is ripe, focused and harmonious, delivering spice and mineral accents on the lingering aftertaste. Drink now through 2024.—*B.S.*

CHRISTIAN MOREAU PÈRE & FILS

Chablis Vaudésir 2014

93 points | \$101 | 50 cases imported | White

An opulent style for the vintage, with the telltale cut of 2014 corralling the peach, melon, chalk and wild herb flavors. A flinty, chalky note enters as this plays out on the long aftertaste of lemon and mineral. Best from 2018 through 2027.—*B.S.*

FRANCE

Northern Rhône

E. GUIGAL

St.-Joseph White Lieu-Dit 2014

95 points | \$75 | 60 cases imported | White

Flamboyantly gorgeous, with toasted macadamia nut and warmed butter notes leading the way for a rich core of papaya, creamed white peach and Cavaillon melon flavors. Verbena and heather details frame the finish, which lets the fruit pump through. A beauty. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

FERRATON PÈRE & FILS

St.-Joseph White Les Oliviers 2014

94 points | \$65 | 25 cases imported | White

Intense, with mango, peach and Cavaillon melon flavors, backed by notes of white ginger, jasmine and honeysuckle. Shows a flash of butter through the finish, while a stony accent ripples throughout. Terrific range. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

MICHEL & STÉPHANE OGIER

Condrieu La Combe de Mallevall 2014

94 points | \$85 | 150 cases imported | White

Features an ample core of yellow apple, white peach and apricot flavors, tightly bundled and showing excellent energy, with a rippling verbena accent through the finish. Almost refreshing and vivacious, a rarity for Viognier. Drink now through 2019.—*J.M.*

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE SÉLECTION

St.-Joseph Offerus 2013

93 points | \$36 | 1,000 cases made | Red

Dark and vinous, featuring blackberry, black currant and plum fruit melded with smoldering charcoal and singed bay leaf notes. The long finish echoes. Best from 2017 through 2023.—*J.M.*

FERRATON PÈRE & FILS

St.-Joseph White La Source 2015

93 points | \$30 | 20 cases imported | White

A light honeyed edge adds intrigue to the core of apricot, yellow apple and star fruit flavors, while heather and salted butter notes fill in on the finish. Opulent. Drink now through 2019.—*J.M.*

GUILLAUME GILLES

Cornas Le Combe de Chaillot 2013

93 points | \$56 | 20 cases imported | Red

Shows juicy focus, with a brambly feel pushing the range of red currant, bitter plum, bay leaf, iron and pepper notes along. A solid, chalky spine pierces the finish. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*J.M.*

MAISON NICOLAS PERRIN

Cornas 2013

93 points | \$56 | 350 cases made | Red

Dense but vibrant, with a core of dark cherry, plum and raspberry fruit, supported by cassis and bay leaf notes and carried by brambly structure. Best from 2017 through 2028.—*J.M.*

ITALY

Tuscany

TENUTA DI TRINORO

Toscana Campo di Magnacosta 2014

94 points | \$120 | 125 cases made | Red

Offering pure cherry, raspberry and rose aromas and flavors, this elegant red is delicate and ethereal. Shows complexity and depth on the finish. Cabernet Franc. Best from 2018 through 2032.—*B.S.*

CASTELLO DI AMA

Toscana L'Apparita 2013

93 points | \$218 | 80 cases imported | Red

Dense, with a tightly woven matrix supporting black cherry, plum, black pepper, tobacco and mineral flavors. Needs time to absorb the tannins. Fine length. Merlot. Best from 2018 through 2030.—*B.S.*

TENUTA BIBBIANO

Toscana Bibbianaccio 2011

93 points | \$130 | 150 cases made | Red

An effusive style, this exudes cherry, strawberry, spice and licorice aromas and flavors. Shows richness and balance, with lingering notes of spice, fruit and tobacco. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

CASTELLO DI BOLGHERI

Bolgheri Superiore 2013

93 points | \$65 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Concentrated flavors of cassis, blackberry, violet and spice converge on the medium-bodied, dense frame. The grainy tannins are present but not obtrusive. Best from 2019 through 2030.—*B.S.*

CASTELLI DEL GREVEPESA

Toscana Leone d'Oro 2010

92 points | \$30 | 1,500 cases imported | Red

A tightly wound style, with fading cherry and plum fruit accented by spice and woody underbrush notes. Offers a firm, bright structure. Sangiovese, Merlot and Syrah. Drink now through 2023.—*B.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.

SCHRADER CELLARS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard MMXIII 2013
96 points | \$400/1.5L | 200 cases made | Red

Bold and powerful, with an explosive burst of juicy red and black fruits shaded by licorice, spice and oak details. Shows a wonderful sense of harmony and finesse. This is captivating, ending with firm tannins. Best from 2020 through 2036. *From California—J.L.*

SCHRADER CELLARS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Colesworthy Beckstoffer Las Piedras Vineyard 2013
96 points | \$400/1.5L | 110 cases made | Red

Combines power and concentration with finesse and nuance, showing extracted blackberry, licorice, graphite, crushed rock and savory herb notes. Finishes with a powerful aftertaste that reverberates with flavor. The spicy, toasty oak adds texture and nuance. Best from 2020 through 2035. *From California.—J.L.*

HARLAN ESTATE

Napa Valley 2013
95 points | \$NA | 1,875 cases made | Red

A muscular, chunky, chewy, extracted style, with remarkable fruit purity, featuring deep, penetrating blackberry, wild berry, blueberry and currant flavors. Gains a crushed rock minerality, but the fruit never lets up. Ends with firm tannins. Best from 2020 through 2034. *From California.—J.L.*

CHRISTIAN MOREAU PÈRE & FILS

Chablis Les Clos 2014
95 points | \$111 | 300 cases imported | White

This white combines freshness and depth with a supple, almost creamy texture. Lemon-lime, Granny Smith apple, tart green plum and oyster shell flavors converge as this dovetails on the long, chalky finish. Accents of fresh herbs and flowers linger. Best from 2018 through 2028. *From France.—B.S.*

MICHEL & STÉPHANE OGIER

Condrieu Les Vieilles Vignes de Jacques Vernay 2014
95 points | \$120 | 50 cases imported | White

Beautifully focused, with a ripe core of apricot, peach and quince notes backed by light verbena and green almond accents. Exotic but not overly flamboyant, with fresh acidity driving the finish. Drink now through 2019. *From France.—J.M.*

TENUTA DI TRINORO

Toscana Campo di Tenaglia 2014
95 points | \$100 | 125 cases made | Red

A smooth, polished version, with a hefty dose of licorice accenting the black currant, blackberry and tobacco flavors. The tannins are grippy, yet this has all the components in the right proportions. The finish evokes spice and sweet fruit. Cabernet Franc. Best from 2018 through 2032. *From Italy.—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 nine 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: Australia, Oregon, Washington

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

Gillian Sciaretta Tasting coordinator, New York
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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