

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Biweekly Publication

NEW WORLD SYRAHS ARE THE ORDER of the day in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, which collects Californian versions from Santa Barbara and Sonoma, along with Barossa and McLaren Vale styles out of Australia. Ojai, Robert Biale, Kilikanoon and Giaconda are a few names to look for.

Two classic-rated Chardonnays here relay the impeccable finesse that grape can achieve, while fans of old-school whites should try the smoky and savory Grüner Veltliners from Austria. Rounding out this report are the elegant Rioja and Ribera reds of Spain and the latest release of the Beringer Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Private Reserve. Six standouts, the Hot Wines, can be found on page 4.

AUSTRALIA

JOHN DUVAL

Shiraz Barossa Entity 2010

92 points | \$40 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Rich flavors of black cherry and spice pick up hints of rose petal and white pepper as the finish evolves. The supple texture glides easily into a deftly balanced end point. Best from 2013 through 2020.—*H.S.*

KILIKANOON

Shiraz Barossa Valley R 2009

92 points | \$105 | 25 cases imported | Red

Ripe and generous, this is wrapped with firm tannins around a core of fresh boysenberry and spice flavors. A big wine that finishes with amazing finesse. Best from 2013 through 2017.—*H.S.*

LEEWIN

Riesling Margaret River Art Series 2011

92 points | \$22 | 300 cases imported | White

Aromatically dramatic, this is fragrant with grapefruit, apple and floral character that reaches through to the long, vivid finish. Drink now through 2025.—*H.S.*

YALUMBA

Chardonnay Eden Valley Wild Ferment 2009

92 points | \$19 | 400 cases imported | White

Vibrant, with a refreshing sense of youth to the pear, nutmeg and anise seed flavors, lingering delicately on the supple, expansive finish. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

JASPER HILL

Shiraz-Cabernet Franc Heathcote Emily's Paddock 2010

91 points | \$125 | 50 cases imported | Red

A Shiraz with finesse, this balances cherry and roasted meat flavors against hints of green olive and wet earth. Shows balance and refinement. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

KILIKANOON

Riesling Watervale Mort's Reserve 2011

91 points | \$35 | 50 cases imported | White

Light, bright and vibrant, with pear and lime aromas, picking up a floral note as the finish zips. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

KILIKANOON

Shiraz Barossa Valley Green's Vineyard 2009

91 points | \$70 | 25 cases imported | Red

Firm, with prickly tannins around a supple core of cherry and berry flavors, hinting at coffee and mint as the finish lingers. Gets better and more cohesive with each sip. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

KILIKANOON

Shiraz McLaren Vale Parable 2009

91 points | \$40 | 50 cases imported | Red

Dense and mouthcoating, not heavy but thick with cherry, molasses and spice flavors lingering on the polished, peppery finish. Best after 2014.—*H.S.*

ZONTE'S FOOTSTEP

Z-Force McLaren Vale 2009

91 points | \$50 | 50 cases imported | Red

Polished, round and distinctive for its herbal and mineral overtones around a focused core of currant and plum fruit. Lingers with intensity. Shiraz and Petite Sirah. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

GREENSTONE

Shiraz Heathcote 2009

90 points | \$40 | 50 cases imported | Red

Firm in texture and generous in flavor, this is juicy with cherry, currant and spice flavors, picking up a wet stone note as the finish lingers. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

HILL-SMITH

Chardonnay Eden Valley 2010

90 points | \$19 | 500 cases imported | White

Generous, in a refreshing frame that lets the spicy pear and clove flavors dance through the deft finish. Offers intensity without weight. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

LEEUWIN

Chardonnay Margaret River Prelude Vineyard 2010

90 points | \$36 | 500 cases imported | White

Bright, with an herbal edge to the ripe pear and apple flavors, all of it fitting together smoothly as the finish lingers. Drink now.—*H.S.*

PENLEY

Chertsey Coonawarra 2009

90 points | \$50 | 50 cases imported | Red

Ripe and generous, with a grip of tannins around a plush core of black currant, smoke and spice flavors that linger nicely. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best after 2013.—*H.S.*

AUSTRIA

RUDI PICHLER

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Terrassen 2010

92 points | \$45 | 40 cases imported | White

This powerful, solid Grüner is full of mineral, spice, smoke and ripe white fruit flavors that are supported by plenty of fresh acidity. The finish is filled with interesting smoke and glazed apricot notes. Drink now through 2030.—*K.M.*

PRAGER

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Achleiten

Stockkultur 2010

92 points | \$90 | 20 cases imported | White

Well-proportioned and rich, offering ripe citrus, gooseberry and apple flavors balanced against a decadent spiciness that features lots of vanilla and cream notes. Features herbal tea and apricot on the finish. Drink now through 2030.—*K.M.*

KARL LAGLER

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Steinborz 2010

91 points | \$40 | 300 cases made | White

Intense and savory, with plenty of tarragon and anise notes to the grapefruit, lentil and mineral flavors. White pepper and sea salt linger on the powerful finish. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

RUDI PICHLER

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Wösendorfer

Kollmütz 2010

91 points | \$75 | 30 cases imported | White

Well-spiced, with pepper accents to the ripe citrus, baked apple and white cherry flavors. Mouthfilling midpalate, with a creamy, voluptuous finish. Drink now through 2025.—*K.M.*

LOIMER

Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Kamptal Terrassen Reserve 2010

90 points | \$37 | 1,600 cases made | White

Rich, with a perfumed aroma and a powerful backbone of flavors, including pomelo and green apple, with hints of white peach. The finish firms up with slate and sea salt. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

PRAGER

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Wachstum

Bodenstein 2010

90 points | \$90 | 20 cases imported | White

Ripe, with powerful yet refined flavors of ripe peach, vanilla and grapefruit that show notes of gooseberry and apricot tart. Complex, with a finish of smoke and spice. Drink now through 2024.—*K.M.*

CALIFORNIA

OJAI

Syrah Santa Barbara County Presidio Vineyard 2006

92 points | \$48 | 196 cases made | Red

Doles out ripe dark berry and pepper in even doses, both structured and well-balanced, with a finish that highlights the finer mineral and spice nuances and underlying suppleness. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

OJAI

Syrah Santa Barbara County White Hawk Vineyard 2006

92 points | \$40 | 239 cases made | Red

Tight and firm, with a dense, rich, layered core of pepper, dried berry, black truffle, mineral and cedar. Still closed yet well-structured, this is a classy effort that begs for aeration and/or cellaring. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

MORGADO

Oh Meux Deus Cuvee Oakville 2009

91 points | \$90 | 125 cases made | Red

A supple, graceful style, offering a mix of ripe berry, spice and floral scents, with notes of black licorice and berry jam. Full-bodied yet light on its feet, showing delicacy and textural polish. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

OJAI

Syrah Santa Maria Valley Bien Nacido Vineyard 2006

91 points | \$40 | 194 cases made | Red

Tight and spicy, with a trim, complex band of gravel, mineral, dried berry, roasted herb and pepper. Medium- to full-bodied, this loses a little velocity on the finish, but is more than gratifying for its distinctive traits. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

ROBERT BIALE

Syrah Sonoma Valley Kiger Family Vineyard 2008

90 points | \$62 | 94 cases made | Red

At points both firmly tannic, with dark berry, mineral, licorice and sage, and also supple and graceful. Adds up to a wine that pleases with flavor, texture and subtle spice notes. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

ROBERT BIALE

Syrah Sonoma Valley Monte Rosso Vineyard 2008

90 points | \$62 | 95 cases made | Red

Achieves a subtle mix of pebble, dried berry, cedar, black licorice and spice, ending with a firm yet delicate aftertaste. Drink now through 2021.—*J.L.*

RODNEY STRONG

Symmetry Meritage Alexander Valley 2008

90 points | \$55 | 3,428 cases made | Red

Weaves together a complex, layered mix of blueberry, currant, mineral, graphite, tar and cedar flavors. Full-bodied without weight, ending with a detailed mix of flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

SPAIN

BODEGAS SIERRA CANTABRIA

Rioja Amancio 2008

93 points | \$174 | 800 cases imported | Red

Rich and dense, yet smooth and focused, this red delivers black cherry, cassis and pomegranate flavors, accented by mineral, bitter chocolate and smoke. Well-structured and balanced, with good length. Drink now through 2018.—*T.M.*

DOMINIO DE ATAUTA

Ribera del Duero 2008

92 points | \$32 | 2,000 cases imported | Red

Exuberant flavors of currant, blackberry, cola and licorice mingle in this racy red, which has light, firm tannins and vibrant acidity, with plenty of fruit to balance the evident oak. A lively modern style. Drink now through 2018.—*T.M.*

MARQUÉS DE CÁCERES

Rioja MC Paco Rabanne Reserva 2005

92 points | \$34 | 200 cases imported | Red

This elegant red is focused and harmonious, with plum, dried cherry, tobacco and spice flavors over firm, well-integrated tannins. Mineral and herbal notes mingle on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—*T.M.*

MARQUÉS DE CÁCERES

Rioja Gran Reserva 2004

91 points | \$35 | 2,000 cases imported | Red

Lively and fresh, this focused red offers plum, mineral, sanguine and tobacco notes backed by firm tannins and good acidity. Though supple, this drives through the spicy finish. Drink now through 2020.—*T.M.*

BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS LUNA BEBERIDE

Bierzo Art... 2009

91 points | \$55 | 450 cases imported | Red

This graceful red is subtle but complex, with licorice, mineral, wild herb and currant flavors that mingle over light tannins and crisp acidity. Racy and long, not powerful but intense. Drink now through 2016.—*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, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

LEEWIN

Chardonnay Margaret River Art Series 2009
96 points | \$89 | 500 cases imported | White

A deftly balanced Chardonnay of tremendous depth without much weight, floating its pear, quince, floral and orange marmalade flavors through to the end. It's the finish that makes this special, balancing all the elements effortlessly and lingering on and on. Drink now through 2025. *From Australia.—H.S.*

GIACONDA

Chardonnay Victoria 2008
95 points | \$125 | 10 cases imported | White

Toasty, spicy and complex, this is polished to a gleam and redolent of ripe pear, pineapple, honey and butterscotch, finishing with just enough acidity to keep it refreshing and impeccable. Shows tremendous depth and vibrancy. Drink now through 2020. *From Australia.—H.S.*

KILIKANOON

Shiraz Clare Valley Attunga 1865 2009
95 points | \$235 | 25 cases imported | Red

Smoky, ripe, rich and seamless in the way it plays its cherry, currant, plum and toasty, spicy overtones together, rolling smoothly into the long, expressive finish. Drink now through 2021. *From Australia.—H.S.*

GIACONDA

Shiraz Victoria Warner Vineyard 2008
94 points | \$100 | 10 cases imported | Red

This has great presence, offering a focused mouthful of ebullient flavors, ranging from blackberry and cherry to tar, wet pavement and licorice notes, all of it sailing over refined tannins and lingering enticingly. Drink now through 2020. *From Australia.—H.S.*

BODEGA MATARROMERA

Ribera del Duero Gran Reserva 2001
93 points | \$110 | 50 cases imported | Red

This graceful red is medium-bodied, with firm tannins, excellent balance and harmonious, savory flavors of black cherry, tobacco, licorice and game. The finish is clean and bright, with floral and spice notes. Drink now through 2016. *From Spain.—T.M.*

BERINGER

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Private Reserve 2008
92 points | \$115 | 1,211 cases made | Red

Patience required for this taut, dense, focused effort, with layers of mineral, cedar, dried berry, black licorice and espresso. Shows great structure and focus, yet this is very tight and backward now. Best from 2013 through 2023. *From California.—J.L.*

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

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: Bordeaux, Chile, Finger Lakes, Loire Valley, Rhône Valley, South Africa

Bruce Sanderson Tasting director, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1993. Tasting beat: Burgundy, Germany, Italy

Harvey Steiman Editor at large, San Francisco
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: Australia, Oregon, Washington

Tasting staff:
Tim Fish (California)
Alison Napjus (Alsace, Champagne, Italy)
Nathan Wesley (Argentina, Italy)
MaryAnn Worobiec (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