

Wine Spectator Insider

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WELCOME FALL WITH SUMPTUOUS REDS AND ALLURING WHITES in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, with wines from California, Oregon and France, up to 97 points. This is a report of the most exciting wines our editors have discovered in the tasting room in recent weeks.

Rhône-style reds from Golden State masters Jemrose, Calcareous and Novy go toe-to-toe with 2015s from Châteauneuf-du-Pape heavyweights Château de Beaucastel, Bosquet des Papes and Domaine de la Solitude. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from Oregon masters Ayoub and Evening Land deliver grace and finesse. Turn to page 4 for the five Hot Wines.

CALIFORNIA Grenache & Syrah

JEMROSE

Syrah Bennett Valley Cardiac Hill Vineyard 2015

93 points | \$40 | 75 cases made | Red

Focused and complex, with floral pepper, blueberry and mineral aromas and polished, structured raspberry, dusty herb and licorice flavors that ease toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2026.—T.F.

NOVY

Syrah Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2015

93 points | \$39 | 116 cases made | Red

Bold black raspberry and bacon fat aromas open to layered, polished blueberry and peppered black licorice flavors that lead to refined tannins. Drink now through 2026.—T.F.

CALCAREOUS

Syrah Paso Robles Devil's Canyon 2014

92 points | \$49 | 615 cases made | Red

Jammy and ripe, with expressive blueberry and smoked pepper aromas and rich blackberry, mocha and orange zest flavors. Drink now through 2023.—T.F.

CHALK HILL

Syrah Chalk Hill 2014

92 points | \$60 | 398 cases made | Red

Combines polish and personality with floral huckleberry and spice aromas and structured, supple raspberry, smoky herb and orange zest flavors that move agilely toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2026.—T.F.

COVENANT

The Tribe Proprietary Red Sonoma County 2015

92 points | \$38 | 400 cases made | Red

Jammy and plump, with black raspberry and sassafras aromas and deep blackberry cobbler, pepper and clove flavors. Syrah, Petite Sirah and Zinfandel. Drink now through 2024.—T.F.

CALCAREOUS

Trés Violet Paso Robles 2014

91 points | \$54 | 720 cases made | Red

Black raspberry and licorice aromas open to plump and lively blueberry and smoky pepper beef flavors that linger. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2023.—T.F.

NOVY

Syrah Santa Lucia Highlands Sierra Mar Vineyard 2015

91 points | \$39 | 117 cases made | Red

Dark and potent, this deeply flavored red offers ripe and smoky blueberry, licorice and stony mineral notes that finish with dense tannins. Best after 2018.—T.F.

FRANCE

Southern Rhône / Châteauneuf-du-Pape

BOSQUET DES PAPES

Châteauneuf-du-Pape A La Gloire de Mon Grand-Père 2015

94 points | \$65 | 400 cases imported | Red

Lush and silky in feel, with creamed plum, raspberry and boysenberry fruit flavors gliding atop a very refined structure. Light anise, rooibos tea, bergamot and mulled blood orange notes deliver waves of nuance through the finish. Seductive. Best from 2019 through 2035.—J.M.

BOSQUET DES PAPES

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Chante Le Merle Vieilles Vignes 2015

94 points | \$69 | 400 cases imported | Red

Lush and lengthy, with gorgeous raspberry, boysenberry and black cherry pâte de fruit notes streaming through, while light anise, floral and incense accents add lift and range. The silky but persistent structure lets everything hang wonderfully through the finish, showing a lingering echo of shiso leaf for freshness. Best from 2019 through 2035.—J.M.

DOMAINE DE CRISTIA

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015

94 points | \$43 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

This is intense, with fig, blackberry and plum compote flavors rolling over one another, while worn leather, Turkish coffee and well-roasted mesquite notes form a ring around them. Overall this is rich and dense, yet there's definition throughout. Only needs time to knit fully before delivering its peak experience. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Best from 2020 through 2035.—J.M.

PHILIPPE CAMBIE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Halos de Jupiter 2015

93 points | \$50 | 80 cases imported | Red

A rich and heady style, with ganache and Turkish coffee notes leading the way, followed by dark fig and plum fruit that rumbles through, all inlaid with a well-roasted alder detail. Forcefully rendered and delicious. Best from 2020 through 2035.—J.M.

DOMAINE DE LA CHARBONNIÈRE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015

93 points | \$36 | NA cases made | Red

A rich, yet silky and suave, style, with raspberry pâte de fruit and mulled red currant flavors infused heavily with incense, dried anise and black tea notes. The long finish shows a sandalwood echo and a well-buried mineral hint. So charming, this is approachable now, but there's no rush. Drink now through 2030.—J.M.

CLOS ST.-JEAN

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2015

93 points | \$50 | 900 cases imported | Red

Rich, with lots of cassis, crushed plum and warm raspberry reduction notes wrapped with licorice root and ganache accents. The solid grip is well-buried on the finish, leaving a tarry echo lingering with the fruit. Best from 2020 through 2035.—J.M.

JEAN DEYDIER & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Clefs d'Or Les Craus

Centenaires 2015

93 points | \$55 | 40 cases imported | Red

Has the ripeness of the vintage, but carries the opulent raspberry, boysenberry and blackberry coulis flavors with a sense of refinement, thanks to long, silky tannins and charming shiso leaf, iron and incense notes that weave gently through the finish. Best from 2019 through 2028.—J.M.

GUILLAUME GONNET

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Bel Ami 2015

93 points | \$40 | 4,000 cases imported | Red

Nicely packed, with a juicy, energetic core of raspberry coulis, red currant preserves and mulled damson plum fruit. Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault and Mourvèdre. Best from 2019 through 2035.—J.M.

MAS DE BOISLAUZON

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Deux Chênes 2015

93 points | \$44 | 8,000 cases made | Red

Solid, with a core of dark plum, fig and blackberry confiture notes framed with warm ganache and Black Forest cake flavors. Showy, with a bolt of graphite. Best from 2020 through 2035.—J.M.

DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015

93 points | \$48 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Ripe and seductive, with a very silky feel, while waves of raspberry, kirsch and blood orange flavors move through, accented by light tea, red licorice and incense notes. Drink now through 2035.—J.M.

ST.-COSME

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2014

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

Lush, with velvety tannins that let cassis, raspberry puree and plum sauce flavors drape nicely. Light chestnut, warm brick and anise notes fill in through the finish. Drink now through 2029.—J.M.

DOMAINE TOUR ST.-MICHEL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée du Lion 2015

93 points | \$60 | 200 cases imported | Red

Warm and fleshy in feel, with a mix of blueberry, açai and blackberry reduction flavors pumping forth, backed by light charcoal and ganache accents. Best from 2019 through 2030.—J.M.

DOMAINE TOUR ST.-MICHEL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Feminessance 2015

93 points | \$80 | 50 cases imported | Red

Rich and fleshy, offering delicious layers of fig, boysenberry and plum pâte de fruit mixed with mouthwatering anise, black tea and violet notes. Best from 2019 through 2030.—J.M.

OREGON

Chardonnay & Pinot Noir

AYOUB

Chardonnay Dundee Hills 2016

94 points | \$48 | 420 cases made | White

Vibrant and refined, with floral tangerine and quince aromas and polished, elegantly layered pear and wet stone flavors that glide along the finish. Drink now through 2020.—T.F.

AYOUB

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Estate Vineyard 2015

94 points | \$65 | 400 cases made | Red

Expressive and beautifully focused, with refined cherry and loamy mineral aromas and elegantly layered raspberry and tea flavors that persist through polished tannins. Drink now through 2024.—T.F.

AYOUB

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Memoirs 2015

94 points | \$38 | 380 cases made | Red

Supple and harmonious, with floral cherry and strawberry aromas and elegantly complex flavors, accented by savory cinnamon and tea hints that glide along the finish. Drink now through 2023.—T.F.

EVENING LAND

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills La Source Seven Springs Estate 2015

94 points | \$75 | 1,230 cases made | Red

Polished and well-structured, with expressive rose petal and sassafras aromas and dynamic blackberry, licorice and spice flavors. Plush tannins. Drink now through 2024.—T.F.

RÉSONANCE

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Découverte Vineyard 2015

94 points | \$65 | 850 cases made | Red

Effortlessly expressive and complex, with violet and cherry aromas and supple flavors accented by savory cinnamon and stony mineral. Drink now through 2023.—T.F.

ALEXANA

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Revana Vineyard 2015

93 points | \$49 | 3,474 cases made | Red

Sleek and harmonious, with an elegantly complex core wrapped in supple raspberry and savory spice flavors that linger toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2023.—T.F.

EVENING LAND

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs 2015

93 points | \$45 | 3,372 cases made | Red

Subtly powerful and rich, with expressive black cherry and spicy cinnamon aromas and layered plum and licorice flavors that build toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2024.—T.F.

RÉSONANCE

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2015

93 points | \$45 | 4,000 cases made | Red

Supple and elegantly structured, with expressive raspberry and orange zest aromas and polished flavors that pick up depth and momentum toward a spicy finish. Drink now through 2023.—T.F.

SEQUITUR

Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge 2015

93 points | \$100 | 500 cases made | Red

Boldly structured, but balanced and polished, with blackberry and espresso aromas and brooding dark plum, clove and savory spice flavors. Refined tannins. Drink now through 2024.—T.F.

ALEXANA

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Zena Crown Vineyard 2015

92 points | \$65 | 173 cases made | Red

A brooding style, with savory plum aromas and deep, plump blackberry and sassafras flavors that persist toward precise tannins. Best after 2018.—T.F.

EVENING LAND

Chardonnay Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs 2015

92 points | \$45 | 665 cases made | White

Supple and polished, with apple and wet stone aromas and harmonious lemon and jasmine flavors that linger lushly on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—T.F.

MAISON L'ENVOYÉ

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Two Messengers 2015

92 points | \$30 | 3,000 cases made | Red

Focused, complex and light-footed, with floral strawberry and cherry aromas and sleek flavors that accent the mineral and savory spice details. Drink now through 2022.—T.F.

ZENA CROWN VINEYARD

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Conifer Single Vineyard 2014

92 points | \$75 | 235 cases made | Red

Supple and expressive, with vibrantly layered raspberry, rose petal and spiced cinnamon flavors that glide toward a polished finish. Drink now through 2023.—T.F.

ZENA CROWN VINEYARD

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Slope Single Vineyard 2014

92 points | \$100 | 735 cases made | Red

Focused and refined, with rose petal and raspberry aromas and well-built cherry, sweet anise and spice flavors that finish with polished tannins. Drink now through 2023.—T.F.

ZENA CROWN VINEYARD

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills The Sum 2014

92 points | \$75 | 286 cases made | Red

Elegant and sleekly complex, with floral cherry and crushed stone aromas and focused, delicately layered raspberry and white pepper flavors. Drink now through 2024.—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.

CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015

97 points | \$99 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

A stunner from the get-go, with waves of thoroughly seductive boysenberry, plum, blueberry and raspberry reduction forming the core, while roasted apple wood, rooibos tea, bergamot, and anise notes flash throughout. Has plenty of bass, with a Turkish coffee accent and a hint of alder driving underneath. Everything moves in lockstep through the seriously long finish. Best from 2020 through 2045. *From France.*—J.M.

DOMAINE DE CRISTIA

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2015

97 points | \$95 | 150 cases imported | Red

This delivers a lush, enticing blast of cassis and raspberry and boysenberry preserve flavors, carried by a silky structure that lets the fruit play out at length, giving adequate time for black tea, singed apple wood, dried anise and fruitcake notes to fill in throughout. Dreamy. Grenache. Best from 2020 through 2040. *From France.*—J.M.

DOMAINE DE CRISTIA

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Renaissance 2015

96 points | \$75 | 150 cases imported | Red

This has an intense core of crushed plum, raspberry and boysenberry fruit flavors, draped with melted licorice notes and backed by a wave of warm fruitcake. Hedonistic for sure, but accents of anise, violet and singed apple wood dart around, adding extra facets of intrigue to hold your attention. Grenache and Mourvèdre. Best from 2020 through 2040. *From France.*—J.M.

BOSQUET DES PAPES

Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Folie 2015

95 points | \$105 | 50 cases imported | Red

This draws some deep water, with waves of mocha, leather, warm plum compote and incense pushed by smoldering mesquite, licorice root and Turkish coffee accents. The long finish drips with raspberry and blackberry fruit, as well as muscular grip. A big one for the cellar. Best from 2020 through 2040. *From France.*—J.M.

EVENING LAND

Chardonnay Eola-Amity Hills Summum Seven Springs Estate 2015

95 points | \$100 | 201 cases made | White

Vibrant, expressive and well-built, with vivid apple and lemon verbena aromas and polished, complex pear, crushed rock and sweet anise flavors that glide along a refined finish. Drink now through 2022. *From Oregon.*—T.F.

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 10 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).

James Laube Senior editor, Napa

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

Bruce Sanderson Senior editor, New York

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

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

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

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

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2001. Tasting beat:
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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