

Wine Spectator Insider

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ENTICING STYLES FROM ACROSS THE WINE WORLD tempt the senses in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, with wines from Australia, California, France and Italy, up to 98 points. This is a report of the most exciting wines our editors have discovered in the tasting room in recent weeks.

Diverse red and white bottlings from Down Under show complexity and depth. Golden State Chardonnays from esteemed estates Peter Michael and Revana show harmony and finesse. Tuscan treasures from Fontodi, Tenuta Sette Ponti and Antinori delight with gorgeous fruit and grip. A group of reds from the Southern Rhône stand out for their beauty and ageability. Fourteen spectacular wines here scored a classic 95 points or above, including one 95-pointer at just \$43. Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.

AUSTRALIA

TORBRECK

RunRig Barossa Valley 2014

94 points | \$225 | 158 cases imported | Red

Dark and dense, offering a toothsome mix of black licorice, loam, wild blackberry and black tea notes. The details start coming in on the finish, adding complexity and some momentum, with cigar box, Szechuan peppercorn and Turkish coffee elements lingering. Shiraz and Viognier. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

GIANT STEPS

Pinot Noir Yarra Valley Applejack Vineyard 2016

93 points | \$42 | 400 cases imported | Red

Supple and elegant, this offers a seamless mix of blackberry, raspberry and green peppercorn accents. Generous and lush on the finish. Strikes the right balance between power and finesse. Drink now through 2027.—*M.W.*

CASELLA

Shiraz McLaren Vale 1919 2010

92 points | \$100 | 100 cases imported | Red

Very polished, with dense but velvety tannins supporting a complex blend of chai tea, mahogany, sarsaparilla and black walnut aromatics, blending seamlessly with a core of chocolate-covered cherry and plum compote flavors. Has tremendous presence on the finish. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

GIANT STEPS

Chardonnay Yarra Valley Sexton Vineyard 2016

92 points | \$42 | 350 cases imported | White

Elegant, with quiet pear, green apple and quince flavors on a light and airy frame, showing details of mineral, pepper and toasted spice. Drink now through 2023.—*M.W.*

GIANT STEPS

Pinot Noir Yarra Valley Primavera Vineyard 2016

92 points | \$42 | 350 cases imported | Red

Effusive, with fresh notes of sage and forest floor that complement the snappy red fruit flavors, showing green tea, cedar and white pepper aromas. The intriguing details continue to linger on the long finish. Drink now through 2027.—*M.W.*

LAMBERT ESTATE

Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Valley Silent Partner 2013

92 points | \$65 | 224 cases imported | Red

Generous, polished and oozing, with complex notes of sandalwood, black walnut liqueur, kirsch and raspberry. A hint of vanilla bean and plush tannins leave a lasting impression on the finish. Drink now through 2030.—*M.W.*

CLOS ST.-JEAN

Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Combe des Fous 2015

95 points | \$110 | 80 cases imported | Red

This pumps out dark currant, plum and raspberry pâte de fruit flavors along with notes of licorice root, ganache and warm fruitcake. Densely packed, but the details are still evident through the graphite-fueled finish. Impressive. Best from 2020 through 2035.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Barberini 2015

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

This drips with raspberry, cassis and plum fruit flavors, with a remarkably silky feel throughout. Alluring black tea and incense notes hang in the background, and there's an element of roasted apple wood as well. The fruit blazes through the finish. Best from 2020 through 2035.—*J.M.*

CHÂTEAU DE ST.-COSME

Gigondas 2015

95 points | \$43 | 1,050 cases imported | Red

A textbook version of the brawny side of Gigondas, this offers a grippy alder bass line underneath layers of dark currant and fig fruit, while lots of tobacco, rosemary and bay fill in throughout. Muscular and energetic, this is built for the cellar. Best from 2019 through 2030.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE BRUSSET

Gigondas Les Secrets de Montmirail 2015

94 points | \$63 | 28 cases imported | Red

Brimms with plum, boysenberry and raspberry reduction flavors, all carried by a solid but polished structure. Lots of enticing notes fill in on the finish. Best from 2018 through 2030.—*J.M.*

CLOS DU MONT-OLIVET

Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Cuvée du Papet 2015

94 points | \$63 | 1,000 cases made | Red

Lush and inviting, with the ripe plum, blackberry and cassis profile typical of the vintage, all backed by polished structure and anise, black tea and fruitcake flavors. Drink now through 2030.—*J.M.*

ITALY

CAIAROSSA

Toscana 2012

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

Hitting a sweet spot now, this red exhibits cherry, leather and spice flavors aligned to a dense profile. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and others. Drink now through 2025.—*B.S.*

FONTODI

Colli della Toscana Centrale Flaccianello 2014

94 points | \$110 | 1,500 cases imported | Red

Well-marked by toasty, vanilla-scented oak, this red boasts a core of cherry, floral, tobacco and graphite. Pure and intense, with fine harmony. Sangiovese. Best from 2021 through 2040.—*B.S.*

GRATTAMACCO

Bolgheri Superiore 2013

94 points | \$108 | 6,000 cases made | Red

Impressive, offering ripe, fading cherry and plum fruit, salty licorice, leather, herb and spice aromas and flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Sangiovese. Drink now through 2027.—*B.S.*

TENUTA SETTE PONTI

Toscana Oreno 2015

94 points | \$110 | 1,200 cases imported | Red

A swath of tannins coats the finish. Black cherry, black currant and mineral flavors hold court. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Best from 2019 through 2032.—*B.S.*

CASTELLO DI AMA

Toscana Haiku 2014

93 points | \$60 | 100 cases imported | Red

Raspberry, black currant and violet notes grace this red, picking up tobacco, iron and wild herb details as this evolves. Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2020 through 2033.—*B.S.*

ANTINORI

Toscana Tignanello 2014

93 points | \$110 | 5,000 cases imported | Red

A black currant thread winds through this dense red, with cherry, leather, earth, iron and mineral flavors. Sangiovese, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2020 through 2033.—*B.S.*

BINDELLA

Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Tenuta Vallocaia Riserva 2013

93 points | \$48 | 75 cases imported | Red

A modern style, with spicy oak wrapped around a core of cherry. Lively and long, showing balance and accents of iron, tobacco and earth. Best from 2019 through 2029.—*B.S.*

CAIAROSSA

Cabernet Franc Toscana Essenzia 2012

93 points | \$205 | 200 cases imported | Red

Sweet, ripe cherry, black currant and leather flavors are the hallmarks of this sleek, intense red. Picks up some oak spice and tar elements on the firm finish. Drink now through 2024.—*B.S.*

TOLAINI

Toscana Tenuta S. Giovanni Valdisanti 2014

93 points | \$39 | 6,500 cases imported | Red

Ripe, packed with black cherry, blackberry, violet, iron and spice aromas and flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2020 through 2028.—*B.S.*

TENUTA DI TRECCIANO

Toscana Daniello 2015

93 points | \$35 | 100 cases imported | Red

A lean style, with black currant and blackberry fruit augmented by spice, earth and mineral notes. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Syrah. Best from 2020 through 2032.—*B.S.*