

# Wine Spectator Insider

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**CALIFORNIA, WASHINGTON, FRANCE AND ITALY** bring familiar favorites and innovative styles to the table in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, a rundown of recently tasted wines that have excited our editors.

In the Rhône, reds and whites up to 96 points from Chapoutier, François Villard and Tardieu-Laurent show nicely, while Washington styles of Syrah provide a New World contrast. California's Aubert, Black Kite, Bedrock and Hartford Family give a glimpse at the promise of the 2014 vintage for Chardonnay and Zinfandel, while grand Brunello riservas continue to wow. Check out the six Hot Wines on page 4.

## CALIFORNIA

### AUBERT

Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Lauren 2014

**93 points | \$180 | NA cases made | White**

Sleek and graceful, with rich, elegant flavors, offering subtle shades of peach, nectarine, honeydew, tangerine and light oak. Impressive for the juicy aftertaste and lingering presence. Drink now.—J.L.

### BLACK KITE

Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Gap's Crown Vineyard 2014

**93 points | \$48 | 201 cases made | White**

Exhibits a charming mix of buttery oak, rich fruit, baking spice nuances and an overall sense of harmony and finesse. The core apple, melon and apricot flavors are intense without being weighty, and the finish displays a measure of grace. Drink now.—J.L.

### WAYFARER

Chardonnay Fort Ross-Seaview Wayfarer Vineyard 2014

**93 points | \$85 | 800 cases made | White**

Showcases creamy tangerine- and nectarine-driven flavors, with lively acidity and a pithy citrus skin texture. The elements push through effortlessly, gaining depth and nuance along the way. Drink now.—J.L.

### BEDROCK

Nervo Ranch Heritage Alexander Valley 2014

**92 points | \$46 | 300 cases made | Red**

A real bruiser, densely built, with muscular tannins, backed by a rich and impressive blend of black raspberry, bittersweet chocolate, fresh sage and black pepper flavors. Ripe, featuring a core of lively acidity. Needs time. Zinfandel and mixed blacks. Best from 2018 through 2026.—T.F.

### BEDROCK

Papera Ranch Heritage Russian River Valley 2014

**92 points | \$46 | 250 cases made | Red**

Floral raspberry and tart blueberry aromas open to densely layered yet rich flavors of boysenberry, fresh anise, mineral and white pepper, framed by dense acidity and ripe tannins. Zinfandel and mixed blacks. Drink now through 2026.—T.F.

### DRY CREEK

Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley DCV2 Four Clones Vineyard Single Vineyard Series 2013

**92 points | \$40 | 438 cases made | Red**

Plush but well-structured, with wild berry and spicy herb aromas leading to layered flavors of raspberry, mocha and licorice. Drink now through 2024.—T.F.

## FRANÇOIS VILLARD

Condrieu Les Terrasses du Palat 2014

**92 points | \$65 | 15 cases imported | White**

This sports a plump core of nectarine, apricot and glazed peach flavors, but stays lively, with a bright floral thread and finely beaded acidity. Drink now through 2018.—*J.M.*

## FRANÇOIS VILLARD

Côte-Rôtie Le Gallet Blanc 2013

**92 points | \$65 | 42 cases imported | Red**

Energetic, with brambly tannins and lots of olive and bay accents bouncing through the core of bitter plum and dark cherry fruit. Well done for the vintage. Best from 2017 through 2021.—*J.M.*

# ITALY

## Brunello di Montalcino

### FANTI

Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2010

**94 points | \$110 | 70 cases imported | Red**

A touch of oak frames the cherry, plum and black currant flavors in this rich, supple, well-proportioned red. The finish firms up but the sweet fruit returns in the end. Best from 2018 through 2033.—*B.S.*

### MOCALI

Brunello di Montalcino Vigna delle Raunate Riserva 2010

**94 points | \$100 | 100 cases imported | Red**

Black cherry and black currant flavors take on underbrush, mineral and tar notes in this powerful, concentrated Brunello. Balanced and densely structured. Best from 2018 through 2035.—*B.S.*

### SIRO PACENTI

Brunello di Montalcino PS Riserva 2010

**94 points | \$180 | 60 cases imported | Red**

Linear in profile, but also dense and focused, with black cherry, black currant, tobacco, licorice and leather flavors permeating the structure. Best from 2018 through 2035.—*B.S.*

### POGGIO SAN POLO

Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2010

**94 points | \$150 | 50 cases imported | Red**

A mix of power and finesse, this offers black currant, cherry, licorice and tobacco flavors, backed by a lively structure. Shows a bit of heat on the finish. Best from 2019 through 2033.—*B.S.*

### CASTELLO ROMITORIO

Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2010

**94 points | \$165 | 100 cases imported | Red**

Classy, with a touch of spicy oak to enhance the cherry, black currant and toasty flavors. A discreet mineral note peeks through on the finish, which remains firm. Best from 2017 through 2030.—*B.S.*

## SAN FELICE

Brunello di Montalcino Campogiovanni Il Quercione

Riserva 2010

**94 points | \$115 | 100 cases imported | Red**

A deep well of black cherry and blackberry flavors, accented by roasted herbs and tar, marks this dense red. This finishes long and fresh. Best from 2018 through 2030.—*B.S.*

## MOCCAGATTA

Barbaresco Bric Balin 2013

**92 points | \$52 | 1,250 cases made | Red**

Fragrant, offering menthol, eucalyptus, sandalwood and cherry aromas and flavors, married to an elegant frame. Balanced, with a lingering aftertaste of spice and tar. Drink now through 2028.—*B.S.*

# WASHINGTON

## ÀMAURICE

Night Owl Walla Walla Valley 2013

**93 points | \$47 | 1,028 cases made | Red**

Lithe and expressive, dripping with cherry, raspberry, cedar and tomato leaf flavors on a sleek frame. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2023.—*H.S.*

## ANDREW WILL

Champoux Vineyard Horse Heaven Hills 2013

**92 points | \$74 | 748 cases made | Red**

Polished and appealing, with red pepper–accented black currant and cherry flavors. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Drink now through 2023.—*H.S.*

## ANDREW WILL

Sorella Champoux Vineyard Horse Heaven Hills 2013

**92 points | \$85 | 716 cases made | Red**

Smoky, spicy notes weave through the supple plum and cherry flavors in this balanced wine. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Best from 2018 through 2023.—*H.S.*

## WILLIAM GRASSIE

Syrah Columbia Valley Libération 2013

**92 points | \$38 | 111 cases made | Red**

Broad and aromatic, bursting with plum, currant and blackberry fruit, picking up savory pepper and leather notes as the finish plays against mildly gritty tannins. Drink now through 2023.—*H.S.*

## L'ECOLE NO. 41

Syrah Columbia Valley 2013

**92 points | \$25 | 2,400 cases made | Red**

Firm and chewy around a glowing core of blackberry, blueberry and white pepper flavors, this medium-weight style remains focused and spicy. Best from 2017 through 2021.—*H.S.*