

Wine Spectator Insider

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A Members-Only, Biweekly Publication

A BUNDLE OF NAPA CABERNETS highlights this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, which features new releases from Robert Mondavi, Pahlmeyer, Kapcsándy Family, Ramey, Caymus, Shafer, Duckhorn and Beaulieu Vineyard.

Fans of dry whites will find plenty of fine offerings in this report as well. Classic-rated Condrieus from France's Northern Rhône Valley complement some of the top dry Rieslings of Germany's Mosel Valley, many presenting great value. Turn to page 4 for six of the best, the Hot Wines.

CALIFORNIA

KAPCSÁNDY FAMILY

Cabernet Sauvignon Yountville Grand Vin State Lane Vineyard 2008

93 points | \$395 | 430 cases made | Red

Complex and well-structured, with sour cherry, wild berry, cedar, lead pencil and tobacco, Bordeaux-like in its structure, balance and mix of flavors, with a nice aftertaste. Needs time. Best from 2013 through 2023.—*J.L.*

RAMEY

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Annum 2008

93 points | \$90 | 380 cases made | Red

Very tight, dense and backward, packing lots of fruit and tannins. The up-front flavors, built around dried currant, mineral, graphite, camphor and cedar, are slow to unfold, showing touches of loamy earth and tobacco on the finish. Best from 2013 through 2024.—*J.L.*

ROCCA

Cabernet Sauvignon Yountville Grigsby Vineyard 2008

93 points | \$75 | 583 cases made | Red

Strikes a fine balance between firm, ripe currant and dark berry fruit, with tight, cedary tannins and subtle floral, raspberry, vanilla and black licorice notes on the finish. Should only get better. Drink now through 2023.—*J.L.*

BEAULIEU VINEYARD

Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford Clone 6 2007

92 points | \$140 | 400 cases made | Red

Grapey currant, plum, spice, leather and cedar notes are elegant and graceful, medium- to full-bodied and slow to evolve, but gains depth and nuance as it does. Full and persistent on the finish, ending with a hint of mocha. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

CHIARELLO FAMILY

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Eileen 2008

92 points | \$60 | 300 cases made | Red

Offers rich, generous plum, black cherry and blackberry fruit that's pure and focused, well-proportioned and balanced, maintaining its fruit vitality with a supple, graceful finish. Best from 2012 through 2021.—*J.L.*

DUCKHORN

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Monitor Ledge Vineyard 2007

92 points | \$95 | 784 cases made | Red

Intense, with aromas of ripe plum, black cherry, mineral, graphite and cedar. Full-bodied, with a cigar box edge, ending with a long, smooth, integrated finish that gains depth. Drink now through 2021.—*J.L.*

GRASSI

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2008

92 points | \$60 | 325 cases made | Red

Offering touches of mint and bay leaf in the aroma, this is full-bodied, closed and slow to unfold, but does so impressively. Very tight and concentrated, well-focused on the loamy earth, cedar, currant, blueberry and dried berry flavors that are nicely framed by structured tannins. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*J.L.*

HESTAN

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2008
92 points | \$100 | 200 cases made | Red

Exhibits ripe, rich, aromatic plum, black cherry and wild berry fruit that's supple and smooth-textured, full-bodied and elegant, gliding along on the finish, where this keeps revealing extra facets of flavor. Firms on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

REVIVAL

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2008
92 points | \$125 | 96 cases made | Red

Ultrarich, extracted and densely flavored, with a core of opulent currant, blackberry and wild berry flavors, teetering on syrupy. Full-blown, yet for all its size and presence, this maintains a graceful balance. From the owners of Flora Springs. Drink now through 2019.—*J.L.*

SHAFER

Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Hillside Select 2007
92 points | \$225 | 2,200 cases made | Red

Impressive for its richness, elegance and grace, this is spicy and supple, with full-bodied plum, currant and black licorice notes, gaining momentum and ending with a silky aftertaste of loamy earth. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

TRINCHERO

Meritage Napa Valley 2008
92 points | \$50 | 1,875 cases made | Red

Rich and savory, well-focused and nicely proportioned, with savory herb, ripe dark berry, black licorice, cedar, espresso and tobacco flavors. Full-bodied, ending with a graceful mix of tiered flavors and texture. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2021.—*J.L.*

ARTESA

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Butala Vineyard 2007
91 points | \$85 | 284 cases made | Red

Tight and well-structured, with firm mineral, sage, cedar, tobacco and dried dark berry flavors. Full-bodied, yet graceful and well-balanced. Drink now through 2021.—*J.L.*

BEAULIEU VINEYARD

Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford Beaulieu No. 2 Reserve Maestro Collection 2007
91 points | \$65 | 800 cases made | Red

Firm, dense and juicy, with concentrated dark berry and loamy earth flavors that show charcoal-graphite touches and a spicy, cedary tobacco edge. Offers a pleasant chewy quality, gaining depth on the finish. Best from 2013 through 2022.—*J.L.*

BEAULIEU VINEYARD

Tapestry Reserve Napa Valley 2008
91 points | \$60 | 18,000 cases made | Red

Blends ripe, fleshy plum and black cherry flavors with a subtle backbone of acidity and tannins. Slow to unfold, but does so gracefully, revealing dusty earth, cedar and black licorice in an elegant style. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2018.—*J.L.*

BUEHLER

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Papa's Knoll 2008
91 points | \$45 | 300 cases made | Red

At points rustic, with firm, chewy tannins, but the core of wild berry, spice, cedar and mineral flavors are complete and complex, with the tannins giving the flavors traction on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

CAYMUS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2009
91 points | \$68 | 71,690 cases made | Red

Supple and creamy-textured, with mocha, ripe plum and cherry flavors that show touches of tobacco, espresso and underbrush. Full-bodied, gaining tannic traction on the finish, elegant and readily approachable. Drink now through 2018.—*J.L.*

DIAMOND CREEK

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Volcanic Hill 2008
91 points | \$175 | 490 cases made | Red

Very tight and dense, with firm loamy earth, dried berry, cedar, tobacco and sage notes that are all well-proportioned, an often underappreciated aspect of Diamond Creek's Cabernets. Needs time. Best from 2014 through 2024.—*J.L.*

HIDDEN RIDGE

Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County Hidden Lot No. 1 2006
91 points | \$55 | 250 cases made | Red

Notably supple and graceful for the vintage, this is firm, rich and juicy, with dark berry, mineral, cedar and tobacco flavors. Full-bodied, ending with a gravelly edge and a lift of berry and cigar box. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

FRANCE

Northern Rhône / White

YVES CUILLERON

Condrieu Ayguets 2009
94 points | \$98/500ml | 5 cases imported | Dessert

This delivers a terrific beam of pure, distilled apricot and tangerine fruit, with flashes of dried orange peel, golden raisin, date and green tea. Sweet yet racy, with terrific cut on the lengthy finish. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

YVES CUILLERON

Condrieu Les Chaillets 2009

94 points | \$90 | 50 cases imported | White

This is packed with creamed pear, green fig, green plum and toasted anise seed notes. The texture is creamy and the finish long and beguiling, thanks to warm brioche and green tea notes that echo through. Drink now through 2014.—*J.M.*

YVES CUILLERON

Condrieu La Petite Côte 2009

93 points | \$65 | 100 cases imported | White

Rich and flattering, offering apricot, persimmon, peach and anise notes layered together, but with ample acidity for definition and a long, brioche- and green tea-tinged finish that shows impressive range and focus. Drink now through 2014.—*J.M.*

LES VINS DE VIENNE

Condrieu 2010

93 points | \$55 | 583 cases made | White

This is juicy and packed, with fig, persimmon, anise and melon all in reserve, wrapped with judicious toast and fine minerality. The long, sleek finish should blossom with cellaring as there is a lot to unwind. Shows the cut and density of the vintage. Best from 2012 through 2014.—*J.M.*

LES VINS DE VIENNE

Vin de France White Taburnum 2009

93 points | \$65 | 665 cases made | White

Gorgeous apricot, anise, Cavaillon melon and nectarine flavors are bunched at the core, but should unwind soon enough, as a mouth-watering green plum edge delivers great definition and cut on the finish. The purest and raciest vintage yet for this wine. Viognier. Drink now through 2016.—*J.M.*

GERMANY

DR. HEIDEMANN'S-BERGWEILER

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2010

92 points | \$15 | 200 cases imported | White

Juicy, rich and ripe, with concentrated peach and apricot flavors that stay focused and fresh. The plush finish features notes of mineral and sea salt. Drink now through 2028.—*K.M.*

REICHSGRAF VON KESSELSTATT

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Piesporter Goldtröpfchen 2010

92 points | \$31 | NA cases made | White

Concentrated black currant and citrus flavors show rich, intense undertones of slate and spice, with a long finish of mineral and sea salt. Drink now through 2028.—*K.M.*

DR. PAULY-BERGWEILER

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg 2010

92 points | \$27 | 700 cases made | White

Fresh and lively, with good cut to the juicy peach and apple flavors. The long, bright finish is filled with concentrated mineral and slate notes, with hints of celery salt. Drink now through 2030.—*K.M.*

DR. PAULY-BERGWEILER

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2010

91 points | \$23 | 800 cases made | White

Pure-tasting, with flavors of melon, white peach and nectarine that are firm and zesty. The crisp finish features hints of salt and smoke, with plenty of mineral. Drink now through 2030.—*K.M.*

DR. HEIDEMANN'S-BERGWEILER

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Graacher Himmelreich 2010

90 points | \$23 | 150 cases imported | White

Very lush, with golden raisin notes to the rich peach, pear and apple flavors. Well-spiced and broad-tasting on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*K.M.*

PETER NICOLAY

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2010

90 points | \$20 | 100 cases imported | White

Very savory, offering intense flavors of slate and mineral, with ripe peach and baked apple notes. The long finish features a tropical fruit element. Best from 2013 through 2028.—*K.M.*

DR. PAULY-BERGWEILER

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2010

90 points | \$27 | 500 cases made | White

Rich and fruity, with concentrated peach, apricot and Fuji apple flavors that are fresh and filled with decadent creamy notes. Ends with a long, spice-filled finish. Drink now through 2025.—*K.M.*

C. VON SCHUBERT

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Maximin Grünhäuser

Herrenberg 2010

90 points | \$32 | 750 cases made | White

Very pure-tasting, with an intense raciness to the peach, apple and green pear flavors. The creamy finish is long and fruity. Drink now through 2025.—*K.M.*

ST.-URBANS-HOF

Riesling Kabinett Feinherb Mosel Wiltinger Alte Reben 2010

90 points | \$20 | 250 cases imported | White

Rich-tasting, with lots of plushness and vibrancy to the ripe peach, apricot and baked apple flavors. Very minerally on the finish. Drink now through 2025.—*K.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.

YVES CUILLERON

Condrieu Vertige 2009

95 points | \$124 | 5 cases imported | White

A powerful, dense Condrieu, showing gorgeous range to the creamed peach, pear, fig and ginger flavors, with lovely mouthfeel on the caressing toasted hazelnut- and brioche-filled finish. This has the buried minerality for finesse and balance, despite its obvious power. A stunner. Drink now through 2016. *From France.—J.M.*

LES VINS DE VIENNE

Condrieu La Chambée 2010

95 points | \$65 | 417 cases made | White

A lush style, with ample creamed pear, fig, warm piecrust and glazed peach notes all rolling through the rounded, flattering finish. But there are also flashes of pear skin and anise that add length and cut, as the finish just hangs on and on. Quietly one of the top bottlings in the appellation. Drink now through 2015. *From France.—J.M.*

ROBERT MONDAVI

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 2008

93 points | \$135 | 7,715 cases made | Red

Rich, supple and graceful, with firm tannins supporting ripe plum, currant, blackberry and spice. Full-bodied, but not heavy or dense. Pleasantly complex and engaging. Drink now through 2022. *From California.—J.L.*

PAHLMAYER

Napa Valley 2008

93 points | \$115 | 4,000 cases made | Red

Offers a mix of tight, structured cedar, graphite, pure black cherry, currant and wild berry flavors, with touches of anise and crushed rock, ending with firm, ripe tannins and good length. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Drink now through 2020. *From California.—J.L.*

C. VON SCHUBERT

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Maximin Grünhäuser

Abtberg 2010

93 points | \$37 | 750 cases made | White

Concentrated black currant and peach flavors fill this rich, racy Riesling to the brim. Long and smoky on the powerful, pure-tasting finish. Drink now through 2030. *From Germany.—K.M.*

ST.-URBANS-HOF

Riesling Kabinett Mosel Piesport Goldtröpfchen 2010

93 points | \$23 | 300 cases imported | White

Offers an intense minerally aroma, with flavors of black currant and crunchy apple that are broad and rich. A racy style, with a long finish of mineral and light spicy notes. Drink now through 2030. *From Germany.—K.M.*

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

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

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

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