

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

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LOVERS OF CULT NAPA CABS AND TERRIFIC OLD WORLD VALUES have a wealth of wines to choose from in this *Wine Spectator Insider*. This week's California selection, with wines up to 96 points, includes three new releases from Colgin, plus the latest Dominus, Realm To Kalon Cabernet, Lewis Reserve Cabernet and Carlisle Papa's Block Syrah.

If your tastes and budget favor value Old World reds, this report also features 13 outstanding Italian and Portuguese selections for \$30 and under, six of them \$20 and under. Most of these are super Tuscan blends from Maremma, Rossi di Montalcino (the "little brother" of Brunello) and Touriga Nacional-based dry reds from the Douro. A fine set of Barossa Shirazes rounds out this report. Find the six Hot Wines on page 4.

AUSTRALIA

FIRST DROP

Shiraz Barossa Valley Fat Of The Land Single Vineyard Greenock 2009

93 points | \$80 | 40 cases imported | Red

Polished, dense and succulent, with dead-ripe cherry, plum, aniseed and chocolate flavors mingling effortlessly, deftly supported by lively acidity and framed with fine tannins. The finish persists impressively. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

DOMAINE TERLATO & CHAPOUTIER

Shiraz Pyrenees Malakoff 2009

92 points | \$40 | 499 cases imported | Red

Dark, crisp, focused and juicy, with floral blackberry fruit, accented with distinctive mineral notes of wet stone and basalt. This has intensity and deft balance. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

FIRST DROP

Shiraz Barossa Valley Fat Of The Land Single Vineyard Ebenezer 2009

92 points | \$80 | 40 cases imported | Red

Dark and brooding, this red is dense with smoky, meaty black cherry and dried tomato flavors, swirling smoothly through the long, complex finish. Shows tremendous power, but less weight than one would expect. Best from 2014 through 2019.—*H.S.*

FIRST DROP

Shiraz Barossa Valley Fat Of The Land Single Vineyard Seppeltsfield 2009

92 points | \$80 | 40 cases imported | Red

Rich and deep, this is a beautifully focused Shiraz that glides rather than stomps, offering a cascade of cherry, blackberry, mint and verbena flavors, with a hint of licorice as the finish lingers effortlessly. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

KILIKANOON

Shiraz Clare Valley Oracle 2009

91 points | \$70 | 200 cases imported | Red

Fresh and vibrant, this is juicy with dark berry and black pepper flavors that sail over refined tannins and linger on the open-textured finish. This has intensity, but wields it gently. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

HEWITSON

Mourvèdre Barossa Valley Old Garden 2009

90 points | \$95 | 100 cases imported | Red

Supple, polished and distinctive for the floral accents to the currant and blackberry fruit, echoing expressively on the refined finish. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

CALIFORNIA

COLGIN

IX Estate Napa Valley 2009

94 points | \$325 | 1,300 cases made | Red

A muscle-bound effort, tight, dense and chewy, with tar, blackberry, cedar and tobacco flavors. Ends with a pleasant wall of tannins and a persistent push of flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2014 through 2030.—*J.L.*

BUONCRISTIANI

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 10th Anniversary 2008

93 points | \$90 | 227 cases made | Red

Rich and intense, with dense, mocha-laced blackberry and wild berry flavors that turn creamy, ending with a chewy mix of tannins and cedar. Best from 2014 through 2026.—*J.L.*

CALIZA

Cohort Paso Robles 2009

93 points | \$48 | 120 cases made | Red

Pure, rich melted black licorice, dark berry, mocha, espresso and berry pie flavors are supple-textured, deep and persistent, ending with tiers of flavor. Syrah, Petite Sirah, Primitivo and Grenache. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

CARLISLE

Syrah Russian River Valley Papa's Block 2010

93 points | \$45 | 410 cases made | Red

Tightly wound, firm, dense and focused, with a classic mix of mocha-laced dark and dried berry flavors, acidity and tannins. Most satisfying on the finish, where the flavors persist. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

CARTE BLANCHE

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2009

93 points | \$125 | 400 cases made | Red

Rich and spicy, this is deep in plum- and currant-laced fruit, with touches of sage and licorice. Maintains its strength, while easing into a more supple ending. Denser, sturdier and more powerful than the Proprietary Red, which is Right Bank-inspired. Best from 2014 to 2028.—*J.L.*

CARTE BLANCHE

Proprietary Red Napa Valley 2009

93 points | \$95 | 250 cases made | Red

Beautifully made, rich and fleshy, delivering dense, complex layers of red and black fruits, with blackberry, wild berry and boysenberry flavors. Intense and persistent, with a long, persistent finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2025.—*J.L.*

DOMINUS ESTATE

Napa Valley 2009

93 points | \$179 | 6,000 cases made | Red

Delightfully harmonious given its intensity, with complex aromas of savory herbs, flowers, ripe and dried currant and berry, crushed rock and cedar flavors. Well-proportioned, focused and persistent. Very youthful and vibrant. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2014 through 2030.—*J.L.*

COLGIN

Cariad Napa Valley 2009

92 points | \$325 | 580 cases made | Red

Very tight and sturdy, firm and muscular, offering extracted blackberry fruit, with notes of black licorice, spice and tar. Ends with chewy tannins and a pleasant edge of ripe fruit. Best from 2014 through 2028.—*J.L.*

ITALY

Tuscany

CECCHI

Morellino di Scansano Val delle Rose Riserva 2008

92 points | \$20 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Black currant, bilberry, violet and sweet vanilla aromas and flavors make this red distinctive. Vibrant and harmonious, with ripe fruit and power. Features a fine aftertaste of sweet fruit and spice. Best from 2013 through 2023.—*B.S.*

POGGIOVERRANO

Maremma Toscana Dròmos 2007

92 points | \$50 | 4,000 cases made | Red

Black currant, blackberry, spice and herb aromas and flavors are concentrated in this dense, well-structured red, with dusty tannins on the finish. Best from 2014 through 2022.—*B.S.*

LA BADIOLA

Maremma Toscana 642° Riserva del Canapone 2009

90 points | \$20 | 4,000 cases imported | Red

Squarely in the Italian camp, with a sour cherry component to the mix of flavors, including black currant and raspberry. This red also shows good acidity and firm yet well-integrated tannins, with fine length. Best from 2013 through 2020.—*B.S.*

FATTORIA DEI BARBI

Morellino di Scansano 2008

90 points | \$20 | 500 cases imported | Red

A briary, chewy red, with cherry, raspberry, tobacco and spice flavors. This is fresh, with sweet fruit and a firm grip of tannins, ending with tobacco and spice notes. Best from 2013 through 2020.—*B.S.*

CAPARZO

Rosso di Montalcino 2010

90 points | \$23 | 2,000 cases imported | Red

Rich and full of juicy plum, cherry and sweet berry notes, this red oozes charm without sacrificing varietal character. Harmonious and long. Drink now through 2016.—*B.S.*

LA GERLA

Rosso di Montalcino 2010

90 points | \$24 | 500 cases imported | Red

Plum, cherry and earth flavors mingle in this rich red, which is full of bass notes, but shows balance and a mineral element on the long finish. Drink now through 2017.—*B.S.*

MARTOCCIA DI BRUNELLI

Rosso di Montalcino 2010

90 points | \$30 | 1,250 cases imported | Red

Fresh and elegant, this red sports strawberry, raspberry and currant flavors on a vibrant, elegant frame. Well-structured and intense, with a lingering mineral aftertaste. Best from 2013 through 2018.—*B.S.*

MOCALI

Rosso di Montalcino 2010

90 points | \$20 | 3,333 cases made | Red

Intense cherry, raw meat, leather and underbrush notes highlight this complex red, which is balanced and long, with a tobacco accent on the finish. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

MONTEPÓ

Morellino di Scansano 2009

90 points | \$39 | 25 cases imported | Red

A dark, concentrated style, packed with blackberry, plum, tar and spice flavors, followed by a long, fruit- and spice-tinged finish. Well-balanced, if dense, needing time for all the components to come together. Best from 2014 through 2020.—*B.S.*

POGGIO SAN POLO

Rosso di Montalcino 2010

90 points | \$26 | 1,700 cases made | Red

Darker tones of black cherry, black currant and violet mark this dense yet fruity red, which is firmly structured, lingering with a tobacco note. Best from 2013 through 2018.—*B.S.*

POGGIOVERRANO

Sangiovese Maremma Toscana Dròmos L'Altro 2007

90 points | \$45 | 250 cases made | Red

A rich, pure red, showing cherry and black currant flavors, with a savory essence and dense tannins. Finishes with a pleasant astringency. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

ROCCA DI FRASSINELLO

Maremma Toscana Le Sughere di Frassinello 2010

90 points | \$33 | 2,250 cases imported | Red

Dark and brooding, this red offers black cherry, plum, raspberry, meat and graphite aromas and flavors. Muscular and firm, with a dark fruit finish. Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2014 through 2020.—*B.S.*

SAN LORENZO

Rosso di Montalcino 2008

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

Loads of tobacco and spice accents grace a beam of pure cherry in this alluring red, which is firmly structured, yet builds to the long finish of tobacco and underbrush. Drink now through 2016.—*B.S.*

PORTUGAL

QUINTA DE VENTOZELO

Touriga Nacional Douro 2009

92 points | \$19 | 3,000 cases made | Red

Very suave, with rich, concentrated flavors of dark currant, violet, kirsch and dark cherry that ooze with intense spicy notes. Black licorice and blackberry linger on the finish, which is filled with dark chocolate notes. Pure and refined. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

QUINTA DO NOVAL

Touriga Nacional Douro 2009

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

Refined and elegant, with concentrated flavors of cherry, raspberry, cream, cherry tart and spice. Interesting notes of beef and mineral linger on the broad finish. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

REAL COMPANHIA VELHA

Touriga Nacional Douro Delaforce 2009

91 points | \$21 | 2,000 cases made | Red

A dense, well-structured red, with powerful flavors of iron, dark plum and dried berry that feature plenty of smoke and spice, followed by dark chocolate on the finish. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

QUINTA DO PASSADOURO

Douro 2009

90 points | \$25 | 2,500 cases made | Red

An elegant and sculpted red, with notes of hot stone and spice to the lip-smacking flavors of dried raspberry and wild plum. Licorice and cardamom linger on the finish, which features hints of smoke. Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz, Touriga Franca and others. Drink now through 2017.—*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.

COLGIN

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Tychson Hill Vineyard 2009
96 points | \$325 | 250 cases made | Red

Firm, dense and enormously complex, this just keeps on gaining, with a tight core of currant, fresh earth, dried berry, sage and cedar flavors. Long, graceful and persistent on the finish, ending with silky tannins. Best from 2014 through 2028. *From California.—J.L.*

ERIC KENT

Syrah Sonoma County Kalen's Big Boy Blend 2009
94 points | \$42 | 220 cases made | Red

Rich and layered, with expansive blackberry, dried berry, pepper, savory herb and mineral flavors, this simply gains and deepens with every sip. Not shy with tannins, but the fruit pushes through, making it all the more complex and enticing. Best from 2013 through 2028. *From California.—J.L.*

FIRST DROP

Shiraz Barossa Valley The Cream 2009
94 points | \$120 | 40 cases imported | Red

Opulent, with a welcome savory note weaving through the ripe cherry, red plum and black tea flavors. A glint of roasted meat and sassafras adds complexity to the long finish. The tannins are well-absorbed. Best from 2014 through 2019. *From Australia.—H.S.*

LEWIS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 2009
94 points | \$130 | 1,500 cases made | Red

A wine of great density, focus and concentration, with tiers of ripe blackberry, wild berry, mocha, espresso and black licorice flavors, ending with a tight, firm, fine-grained tannic backbone. Best from 2013 through 2027. *From California.—J.L.*

NIEPOORT

Douro Batuta 2009
94 points | \$100 | 19 cases imported | Red

This suave red exhibits blackberry and dark plum flavors, backed by crisp acidity and plenty of tannins. Long and rich on the chocolate-, licorice- and mocha-infused finish. Pure and rich-tasting. Drink now through 2020. *From Portugal.—K.M.*

REALM

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2009
94 points | \$145 | 250 cases made | Red

Deliciously rich blackberry, mocha, black licorice and spicy floral scents lead to a ripe, fleshy and full-bodied palate. Pure and persistent, this is long and elegant on the finish. Drink now through 2025. *From California.—J.L.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

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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.

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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