

Wine Spectator Insider

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WINE SPECTATOR'S Insider covers new releases from Austria, France's Burgundy and Rhône Valley regions and Washington this week. Kim Marcus starts off with 11 Grüner Veltliners, mostly from the Wachau region of Austria. Two single-vineyard bottlings from Knoll are the top-scoring Grüners here—they offer mouthfilling flavors of grapefruit, apricot and slate, and have the potential to age well through the decade.

James Molesworth highlights wines from the Rhône Valley, including Châteauneuf-du-Pape reds from the 2008 vintage, and a white Châteauneuf-du-Pape from 2009. Bruce Sanderson reviews a handful of 2007 Burgundies, three from the famed *grand cru* Richebourg vineyard. Finally, Harvey Steiman covers Washington. He finds a 97-point Syrah from Red Willow Vineyard, produced by Owen Roe Winery, among the more than a dozen Washington wines featured here. It tops this week's Hot Wines, which you'll find on page 4.

Austria

KNOLL

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Loibner Ried Loibenberg 2008

94 points | \$49 | 720 cases imported | White

Very classy and expressive, with a complex array of ripe peach, apple, glazed pear and candied ginger flavors. There's plenty of minerality midpalate, and this is finely balanced, with a long finish of apricot, cream and white chocolate. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

KNOLL

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Loibner Ried Schütt 2008

93 points | \$49 | 240 cases imported | White

This complex Grüner features mouthfilling glazed citrus, peach and ruby grapefruit flavors that are backed by a firm acidity and accented by rich cream and spice notes. The long, plush finish features notes of lentil and almond. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

KNOLL

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Loibner Vintothekfülling 2008

93 points | \$66 | 240 cases imported | White

Lush yet powerful, with baked apple, ripe pear and glazed grapefruit flavors that are rich and concentrated. Quite juicy on the fresh finish, which features plenty of slate and smoke. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

JOHANN DONABAUM

Grüner Veltliner Federspiel Trocken Wachau Spitzer Point 2008

92 points | \$15 | 90 cases imported | White

There's plenty of snap and definition to the concentrated red peach, McIntosh apple and grapefruit flavors. The long finish echoes with glazed citrus and spice. Should gain with time in the cellar. Best from 2011 through 2017.—*K.M.*

JOHANN DONABAUM

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Spitzer Point 2008
92 points | \$28 | 190 cases imported | White

A textbook Grüner, with an enchanting rich, spicy aroma that leads to flavors of peach, lentil and ruby grapefruit that are very creamy and plush. Broad and juicy on the finish. Best after 2016.—*K.M.*

KNOLL

Grüner Veltliner Federspiel Trocken Wachau Loibner 2007
92 points | \$26 | 3,048 cases imported | White

This features a rich, intense mix of ginger, tangerine and peach flavors that are powerful and backed by plenty of juicy acidity. The intense finish offers notes of golden raisin, cream and spice. Drink now through 2017.—*K.M.*

JOHANN DONABAUM

Grüner Veltliner Federspiel Trocken Wachau Johann 2008
91 points | \$14 | 200 cases made | White

Very pure and fresh-tasting, with elegant yet powerful flavors of Fuji apple, peach and ruby grapefruit. White pepper notes season this well, finishing with crispness and plenty of mineral. Drink now through 2016.—*K.M.*

KNOLL

Grüner Veltliner Federspiel Trocken Wachau Loibner 2008
91 points | \$24 | 2,400 cases imported | White

There's lots of vibrant acidity to the peach, gooseberry and grapefruit flavors, with hints of white chocolate midpalate. The powerful, crisp and mineral-laden finish features some smoky notes. Drink now through 2017.—*K.M.*

PETRA UNGER

Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Kremstal Gottschelle Reserve 2008
90 points | \$22 | 50 cases imported | White

Lush and creamy, with concentrated ripe apple, pear and tropical fruit flavors that are bold and rich. The finish is suave and supple, with plenty of glazed apricot and spice notes. Drink now through 2015.—*K.M.*

France Burgundy

GROS FRÈRE & SOEUR

Vosne-Romanée Les Chaumes 2007
93 points | \$111 | 2 cases imported | Red

A beautiful red, elegant, detailed and expressive. Rose, strawberry, cherry and spice aromas and flavors grace the silky texture, and this is harmonious and long. Lingers hauntingly. Drink now through 2021.—*B.S.*

MONGEARD-MUGNERET

Richebourg 2007
93 points | \$324 | 18 cases imported | Red

An aromatic red, packing spice, floral and red berry notes. Supple and elegant, with a vibrant structure, building to a long, spice-filled aftertaste. This is approachable now, yet will only improve with a few years of aging. Best from 2012 through 2028.—*B.S.*

GROS FRÈRE & SOEUR

Richebourg 2007
92 points | \$344 | 15 cases imported | Red

Rich and round, with medium weight and a bright structure supporting cherry, raspberry, spice and herb flavors. The tannins are refined and well-integrated, and this exudes sweet licorice and savory notes on the finish. Best from 2011 through 2025.—*B.S.*

ALAIN HUDELLOT-NOËLLAT

Vosne-Romanée Les Suchots 2007
91 points | \$89 | 20 cases imported | Red

A firm, sinewy red, with a core of berry and spice locked in a grip of tannins and lively acidity. This has tension and persistence, so give it some time. Everything seems in the right proportion. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

MONGEARD-MUGNERET

Vosne-Romanée Les Suchots 2007
91 points | \$82 | 30 cases imported | Red

Rich and smooth, with a hefty dose of new oak, this red evokes red cherry, strawberry and spice flavors. Polished to a sheen, but not exaggerated, leaving a dense, oak-spice finish. Best from 2012 through 2019.—*B.S.*

France Rhône

CHÂTEAU RAYAS

Syrah Côtes du Rhône Château de Fonsalette Réserve 2006
92 points | \$100 | 50 cases imported | Red

Dark and driven, with a beefy hint pushing the charcoal, roasted plum, hoisin sauce and espresso notes, all laced with melted black licorice and nicely buried, racy acidity. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

PAUL AUTARD

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Juline 2008
91 points | \$95 | 400 cases made | Red

A toasty, modern style, with lots of fruitcake, spice and incense notes up front, followed by fine-grained tannins that carry the medium-weight raspberry and blackberry fruit through the finish. Yet this relies more on its toast than its fruit, so not likely to last as long as the best examples. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE BEAURENARD

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2009

91 points | \$45 | NA cases made | White

Pure pear and yellow apple fruit is backed by blanched almond and melon rind hints. A nice stony edge frames the lengthy finish. Drink now.—*J.M.*

DELAS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Haute Pierre 2008

91 points | \$46 | 900 cases imported | Red

This has nice polish for the vintage, with racy blueberry, raspberry and boysenberry fruit flavors well-supported by graphite, fruitcake and licorice root. A spicy edge lingers nicely on the fleshy finish. Drink now through 2025.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA MORDORÉE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Reine des Bois 2008

91 points | \$136 | 280 cases imported | Red

Quite ripe and well-rounded for the vintage, with flattering blueberry, blackberry and fig paste notes liberally laced with spice, toast and fruitcake flavors. The long, toasty finish is dense, with a lightly firm edge. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

PIERRE-HENRI MOREL

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Lieu-Dit Pignan 2008

91 points | \$67 | 250 cases made | Red

This has a solid, ripe, juicy core of mulled plum, raspberry and blackberry fruit that's liberally laced with mulled spice and Turkish coffee hints. There's a long, graphite-tinged finish. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

PAUL AUTARD

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2008

90 points | \$37 | 1,000 cases made | Red

Shows flashy mocha and fruitcake notes up front, with lots of briar, mulled raspberry, blueberry and fig fruit flavors. A long, briary edge holds the finish nicely. Drink now through 2018.—*J.M.*

JEAN DEYDIER & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Clefs d'Or 2008

90 points | \$40 | 5,000 cases made | Red

Offers an intense mix of Turkish coffee, spice cake, brown bread, graphite and blueberry preserve notes, all backed by briar and licorice root on the perfume-tinged finish. Harnesses the vintage's edgy feel nicely. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

ALAIN JAUME

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Grand Veneur 2008

90 points | \$50 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Toast, ganache and graphite notes lead the way for raspberry and black cherry pie favors. Finishes with a dusting of cocoa and spice notes. Drink now through 2015.—*J.M.*

Washington

BETZ

Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Père de Famille 2007

93 points | \$60 | 925 cases made | Red

Grippy tannins surround a glowing core of cherry, blackberry, mint and spice flavors that linger effortlessly as the finish spreads and opens. Shows extraordinary balance and refinement, but this needs time to soften. Best from 2012 through 2019.—*H.S.*

OWEN ROE

Chardonnay Yakima Valley DuBrul Vineyard 2008

93 points | \$55 | 50 cases made | White

Bright and jazzy up front, beaming with pear, grapefruit, apple and floral aromas, turning silky and inviting in the mouth before letting vibrant acidity lift the finish. Drink now through 2014.—*H.S.*

ADAMS BENCH

Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley The V 2007

92 points | \$42 | 247 cases made | Red

Beautifully structured, with just enough crisp tannins and sturdy backbone to let the pure currant and berry flavors push through, bringing along hints of pear skin, espresso and sage as they sail into a long and expressive finish. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

BETZ

Clos de Betz Columbia Valley 2007

92 points | \$45 | 830 cases made | Red

Firm in texture, with a smoky character weaving through the tight blackberry and anise flavors, as coffee and dark chocolate notes inform the finish. Needs time to loosen up. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2012 through 2017.—*H.S.*

OWEN ROE

Cabernet Sauvignon Yakima Valley Red Willow Vineyard 1973 Block 2007

92 points | \$72 | 215 cases made | Red

Solidly built but not aggressive, this stylish Cabernet offers fine tannins around a supple core of blackberry, cherry and licorice flavors, persisting nicely on the deftly balanced, harmonious finish. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

SOOS CREEK

Champoux Vineyard Horse Heaven Hills 2007

92 points | \$35 | 227 cases made | Red

Upright, aristocratic and brilliantly focused, showing off its dark cherry, rhubarb and exotic spice flavors on a supple frame, the finish lingering expressively. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

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.

OWEN ROE

Syrah Yakima Valley Red Willow Vineyard Chapel Block 2008

97 points | \$45 | 359 cases made | Red

Warm, inviting and impressive for the purity of its plum, blackberry and currant fruit, sailing easily over a bed of fine tannins, finishing silky and seamless, with hints of espresso and violet. This has extraordinary balance and finesse without sacrificing an ounce of power. Drink now through 2016. *From Washington.—H.S.*

KNOLL

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Loibner Ried Loibenberg 2007

95 points | \$48 | 1,048 cases imported | White

This massively concentrated Grüner is unctuous and loaded with ripe peach, smoke and apricot flavors that feature accents of tropical fruit. The powerful finish is filled with an alluring mix of cream, slate, smoke and spice. Drink now through 2019. *From Austria.—K.M.*

KNOLL

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Loibner Ried Kreutles 2007

94 points | \$39 | 900 cases imported | White

Steely and concentrated, with loads of grapefruit, dried apricot, slate and cocoa flavors that are mouthfilling and a touch exotic. The powerful finish echoes the primary fruit and is joined by smoke, slate and lentil-like notes that are rich and focused. Needs a bit more time. Best from 2011 through 2020. *From Austria.—K.M.*

THIBAUT LIGER-BELAIR

Richebourg 2007

94 points | \$389 | 45 cases imported | Red

Dense and almost tarry, with licorice, black currant and blackberry flavors backed by dense tannins. A powerful style, concentrated and saturated with flavor, and rigid on the finish now. Impressive for the vintage. Needs time. Best from 2014 through 2030. *From France.—B.S.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

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Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 14 people in three offices. They work together to review more than 18,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our seven senior tasters count more than 140 years of tasting experience.

We always taste wine blind in our offices in Napa, New York and Tuscany. 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