

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

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THIS week's *Wine Spectator Insider* spans the globe, covering Australia, California and Burgundy. James Laube, Tim Fish and MaryAnn Worobiec review a selection of reds and whites from California from top names such as Paul Hobbs, Sine Qua Non, Merry Edwards and Lewis. The 2007 Caymus Special Selection earns a classic rating in this report; find it among the Hot Wines, on page 4.

Also in this issue, Bruce Sanderson tastes seven red wines from Burgundy's Gevrey-Chambertin village, most from the 2007 vintage along with a 2006 cuvée from Marc Roy. Both vintages are outstanding for the Côte de Nuits. Harvey Steiman leads off this issue, however, with five Shiraz bottlings from Barossa Valley, including two from Sons of Eden. Run by Corey Ryan and Simon Cowham, Sons of Eden emphasizes full-bodied wines with fresh fruit flavors.

Australia

KAESLER

The Bogan Barossa Valley 2007

92 points | \$56 | 500 cases imported | Red

Dark and inky, big but not gigantic, bursting with plum, cherry and white pepper flavors, hinting at cream as the spices kick in on the round, generous finish. Shiraz. Best from 2012 through 2017.—*H.S.*

SONS OF EDEN

Shiraz Barossa Valley Romulus Old Vine 2006

91 points | \$65 | 120 cases made | Red

Aromatic with cherry and licorice, this turns to fresh plum and cream on the open-textured palate, lingering enticingly on the finish. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

THE STANDISH

Shiraz Barossa Valley 2006

91 points | \$135 | 350 cases imported | Red

Lithe, supple and beautifully balanced, with a peppery edge to the red berry and licorice flavors that linger against lightly crisp tannins. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

KAESLER

Shiraz Barossa Valley Old Vine 2007

90 points | \$61 | 300 cases imported | Red

Supple and ripe, with dark berry, tobacco and wet earth flavors, persisting on the solid finish. The tannins are well-submerged. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

California

CARTER

Hossfeld Coliseum Napa Valley 2007

93 points | \$75 | 193 cases made | Red

An impressive combination of grace and power, with aromas of cherry, bittersweet chocolate and tobacco leaf and complex, well-structured flavors of red currant and lead pencil, finishing with big but ripe and loamy tannins. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Best from 2011 through 2016.—*T.F.*

PIÑA

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley D'Adamo Vineyard 2007

93 points | \$75 | 1,085 cases made | Red

Firm, tight and structured, with a rich core of wild berry, spice, blackberry, anise and licorice, gaining depth, richness and complexity. A loamy edge gives it all a pleasant, earthy dimension. Drink now through 2018.—*J.L.*

SHIBUMI KNOLL

Chardonnay Russian River Valley Buena Tierra Vineyard 2008
93 points | \$65 | 315 cases made | White

Combines ripe, rich, layered fig, melon, pear and honeysuckle flavors that are full-bodied and build on the palate, gaining depth and richness, with roasted fig and honeydew melon, ending with a dash of smoky, toasty oak and marshmallow. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*

SINE QUA NON

Grenache California To The Rescue 2007
93 points | \$100/375ml | 164 cases made | Dessert

Distinctive and stunning, this dense wine starts out syrupy, luscious and grapey, showing ripe blackberry, date and cassis flavors, with peppercorn details that evolve to distinctive chocolate raspberry torte on the finish with warm, firm tannins. Drink now through 2015.—*M.W.*

BEAULIEU VINEYARD

Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Reserve 2008
92 points | \$33 | 900 cases made | White

Offers a rich, spicy aroma and flavor, built around full-bodied fig, melon, fennel, pineapple, toasty oak and honeysuckle flavors that gain depth and complexity, and ends with a long, layered finish. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*

CARLISLE

Syrah Russian River Valley Papa's Block 2008
92 points | \$45 | 212 cases made | Red

Fresh, lively and juicy, with floral and berry aromatics that are firm, spicy and taut on the full-bodied palate, gaining velocity within its tight framework. Drink now through 2016.—*J.L.*

CHALK HILL

Chardonnay Chalk Hill Founder's Block 2007
92 points | \$105 | 217 cases made | White

A rich, honeyed style that's complex and layered, with tiers of fig, Golden Delicious apple, smoke, nectarine and honeydew melon fruit that's bold and concentrated, ending with a sweetish edge and good length. Drink now through 2012.—*J.L.*

PAUL HOBBS

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Ulises Valdez Vineyard 2008
92 points | \$70 | 282 cases made | Red

Aromas of ripe, baked-blackberry and cherry pie are soft, fleshy and full-bodied, picking up spice, floral and lavender scents that are focused and complex. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*

KRUPP BROTHERS

The Advocate Stagecoach Vineyard Napa Valley 2006
92 points | \$70 | 628 cases made | Red

A wine with grace and finesse, complex but sleekly structured, with aromas of black cherry and mocha oak and flavors of red currant, tomato leaf and dried brown spices. Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2016.—*T.F.*

MORLET

Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Ma Douce 2008
92 points | \$70 | 250 cases made | White

Offers a rich, bold mix of tropical fruit with pineapple, melon, fig and spice. Full-bodied, layered, complex and concentrated, ending with a long finish. Drink now through 2015.—*J.L.*

MUELLER

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2007
92 points | \$25 | 442 cases made | Red

Bold, intense cola, blackberry and wild berry flavors are firm, spicy and full-bodied, tight and concentrated, building strength and showing depth and complexity. Muscle-bound. Better in a year. Drink now through 2016.—*J.L.*

PEIRSON MEYER

Chardonnay Sonoma County Untitled #4 2008
92 points | \$75 | 125 cases made | White

Serves up a rich array of ripe tropical fruit with hints of pineapple, melon, pear and nectarine fruit that's full-bodied, leesy and a bit raw. Still, this is rich and persistent on the finish and should gain some flesh while in the bottle. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*

RAMEY

Chardonnay Russian River Valley Ritchie Vineyard 2007
92 points | \$70 | 1,275 cases made | White

Fresh floral and fruity aromas are intense and vibrant, deeply concentrated, young and firm, mixing green apple with spice, honey and honeydew melon and ending with a long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*

RIDGE

Chardonnay Santa Cruz Mountains Santa Cruz Mountains Estate 2008
92 points | \$40 | 2000 cases made | White

Fresh and snappy, with ripe, firm, vibrant, full-bodied citrus, green apple, spice and honeysuckle flavors that turn delicate and elegant. Drink now through 2016.—*J.L.*

SINE QUA NON

Syrah California Labels 2007
92 points | \$135 | 1,421 cases made | Red

Fresh, intense, firm and vibrant, with a touch of suppleness midpalate, focused on spice, pepper, sour blackberry and wild berry, holding its focus and ending with drying tannins. Drink now through 2016.—*J.L.*

DAVID ARTHUR

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2007
91 points | \$95 | 718 cases made | Red

Sleek and restrained, with trim dried currant, berry, sage, mineral and anise flavors that are full-bodied, gaining depth and complexity on the finish, where the tannins firm up. Drink now through 2017.—*J.L.*

CAVUS

Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District 2006
91 points | \$90 | 295 cases made | Red

Rustic, and pleasantly so, with earthy herb, dried berry, plum and black licorice flavors that are pure and full-bodied. Fleshy and structured at points, ending with a mix of black licorice and berry flavors. Drink now through 2017.—*J.L.*

SINE QUA NON

Grenache California Pictures 2007
91 points | \$135 | 764 cases made | Red

Intense, vibrant and full-bodied, with tightly wound wild berry, black cherry, pepper, spice and cedar flavors that are pure and focused, long and persistent. Drink now through 2016.—*J.L.*

SINE QUA NON

Roussanne California To The Rescue 2006
91 points | \$100/375ml | 139 cases made | Dessert

Extremely viscous, rich, ripe and unctuous, with intriguing fig, honeyed fruitcake, dried citrus peel and marmalade flavors that glide on the palate with enough acidity to keep this lush and not cloying. Drink now through 2016.—*M.W.*

PAUL HOBBS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2007
90 points | \$135 | 194 cases made | Red

Complex aromas of bay leaf, sage, currant and berry are sleek, elegant and stylish, medium- to full-bodied, finishing with touches of smoke and mocha. Drink now through 2017.—*J.L.*

LEWIS

Chardonnay Russian River Valley Barcaglia Lane 2008
90 points | \$65 | 350 cases made | White

Fresh, firm, intense and vibrant, with spicy green apple, honeydew melon and honeysuckle that are full-bodied, slow to unfold, gaining depth, richness on the finish. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*

LYNMAR

Chardonnay Russian River Valley La Sereinité Proprietary Cuvée 2008
90 points | \$70 | 241 cases made | White

Moderately rich, yet elegant and refined, with complex pear, melon, green apple and honeysuckle flavors that gain velocity and breadth. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*

France Burgundy

MARC ROY

Gevrey-Chambertin Cuvée Alexandrine 2006
92 points | \$75 | 200 cases made | Red

This has super fruit character, displaying pure blackberry, black currant, violet and mineral aromas and flavors. Supple, harmonious and vibrant, with refined, well-integrated tannins on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

FRÉDÉRIC ESMONIN

Gevrey-Chambertin Estournelles St.-Jacques 2007
91 points | \$50 | 55 cases imported | Red

Rich, with a dense texture that provides a backdrop for the cherry, berry, mineral and spice aromas and flavors. This is well-balanced, with the long aftertaste evoking sweet fruit and spice. Best from 2012 through 2023.—*B.S.*

PIERRE NAIGEON

Gevrey-Chambertin Lavaux St.-Jacques Vieilles Vignes 2007
91 points | \$84 | 10 cases imported | Red

Aromas of macerated black cherry, raspberry and violet, with a core of sweet berry notes on the palate that is backed by a layer of tannins and bright acidity. Needs a little time to come together. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

PIERRE NAIGEON

Gevrey-Chambertin Les Echezeaux Vieilles Vignes 2007
90 points | \$63 | 5 cases imported | Red

A ripe, almost opulent red, sporting black cherry, spice and earth notes. Slightly dry on the finish, yet with enough sweet fruit to match. Needs a year. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

PIERRE NAIGEON

Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes 2007
90 points | \$53 | 40 cases imported | Red

Deep and silky, this red offers macerated cherry and raspberry flavors mixed with tobacco, spice and mineral notes. Rich and dense, lingering on the long, fruit- and spice-tinged aftertaste. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

PONSOT

Gevrey-Chambertin Cuvée de l'Abeille 2007
90 points | \$80 | 30 cases imported | Red

Licorice, spice and mineral notes highlight this light-weight, sinewy red, with raspberry and red currant notes playing around the edges. Bright and silky, with a lively finish. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

MARC ROY

Gevrey-Chambertin Clos Prieur 2007
90 points | \$60 | 500 cases made | Red

Tasty black currant and blackberry aromas and flavors highlight this supple red, which is concentrated and supple, with a combination of earth, tobacco and mineral on the long, fruit-filled finish. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.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.

CAYMUS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Special Selection 2007
96 points | \$130 | 10,000 cases made | Red

A firm, ripe, muscular wine that's tight, deep, structured, intense and concentrated, serving up a mix of ripe currant, cassis, plum, black cherry and blackberry fruit that's clean, pure, complex and layered, with touches of anise, cedar and black licorice. Ends with chewy tannins. Best from 2011 through 2019. *From California.*—J.L.

VINEYARD 7 & 8

Chardonnay Spring Mountain District 8 2008
94 points | \$50 | 210 cases made | White

Ultrarich and creamy, full-bodied and layered, with a mix of fig, honeydew melon, spice and honeysuckle flavors that are ripe, intense, pure and focused, ending with a long, full finish. Drink now through 2014. *From California.*—J.L.

MERRY EDWARDS

Sauvignon Blanc Russian River Valley 2008
93 points | \$30 | 3,880 cases made | White

Effusively fragrant, with honeysuckle, apple blossom, peach and ripe melon flavors that are delicious, ripe and extremely mouthwatering, with an acidity that dances along the rich, creamy texture. Drink now through 2016. *From California.*—M.W.

SONS OF EDEN

Shiraz Eden Valley Remus Old Vine 2006
93 points | \$65 | 160 cases made | Red

Rich, ripe, round and focused, bringing out wonderful details of plum, blackberry, roasted meat and licorice flavors, lingering on the open-textured finish. Stylish and refined for a big wine. Best from 2011 through 2018. *From Australia.*—H.S.

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

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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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: California

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Tim Fish (California),
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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