

Wine Spectator Insider

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THIS WEEK'S GLOBETROTTING *WINE SPECTATOR INSIDER* flies from Italy to Australia, stopping over in the Pacific Northwest. Among the reviews are 10 Barolos reviewed by Bruce Sanderson and seven Oregon Pinot Noirs, 17 Washington wines of just about every variety the state grows and five big Australian reds, all tasted by Harvey Steiman. Among the last group is the latest release—2005—of the legendary Penfolds Shiraz South Australia Grange, which is joined by three other classic-scoring wines from Italy and Washington among the Hot Wines, on page 4.

AUSTRALIA

ELDERTON

Ode To Lorraine Barossa 2006

92 points | \$50 | 450 cases imported | Red

Vibrant and refreshing, a jazzy mouthful of juicy currant, guava and pomegranate flavor, shaded with hints of hibiscus and spice as the finish lingers exotically. Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Merlot. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

PENFOLDS

Cabernet Sauvignon South Australia Bin 707 2007

91 points | \$150 | 440 cases imported | Red

Ripe and expressive, with currant and plum fruit playing against mineral and herb flavors. Tannins firmly clamp down on the finish, requiring cellar time to soften. This should eventually become elegant. Best after 2013.—*H.S.*

YALUMBA

Shiraz Barossa The Octavius 2006

91 points | \$110 | 80 cases imported | Red

Rich in flavors, generous in style and nicely focused to emphasize refinement over power, this offers cherry, blackberry and floral flavors that persist nicely on the lingering finish. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

ELDERTON

Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Ashmead Single Vineyard 2006

90 points | \$94 | 400 cases imported | Red

Polished, supple and delicately balanced between rich, spicy cherry flavors and the welcome herbal overtones, persisting elegantly on the finely tuned finish. Drink now through 2014.—*H.S.*

ITALY Piedmont

LUIGI BAUDANA

Barolo Baudana 2006

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

Plum and wild berry aromas and flavors up front give way to iron, tobacco and mineral notes on the back end as this broad-shouldered Barolo crosses the palate. There's an intriguing interplay of mineral and fruit, fine intensity and a long aftertaste. Best from 2014 through 2035.—*B.S.*

LUIGI PIRA

Barolo Margheria 2006

94 points | \$50 | 266 cases imported | Red

This is a beautiful Barolo, rich and saturated with black cherry, blackberry, spice and mineral flavors. This is elegant, yet shows a solid masculinity that gives it a firm structure for aging. Hints of licorice and tar emerge on the long finish. Best from 2013 through 2033.—*B.S.*

LUIGI PIRA

Barolo 2006

93 points | \$37 | 166 cases imported | Red

A tightly wound red, this is firm, yet elegant and offering cherry, tobacco, licorice and mineral aromas and flavors. Boasting intensity and length, this needs time to unwind. Best from 2013 through 2032.—*B.S.*

LUIGI PIRA

Barolo Vignarionda 2006

93 points | \$95 | 108 cases imported | Red

Aromas of flowers, licorice, and tar signal this Barolo, whose flavors evoke cherry and spice, too. Then the burly tannins take over, yet this stays balanced, melding with the fruit on the long finish. Best from 2014 through 2032.—*B.S.*

LUIGI BAUDANA

Barolo Cerretta 2006

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

Appealing plum, bilberry and tobacco aromas and flavors highlight this muscular red. This is bright and focused, displaying firm tannins for support. Spice and mineral mark the long aftertaste. Best from 2013 through 2030.—*B.S.*

FONTANAFREDDA

Barolo La Rosa 2006

92 points | \$120 | NA cases made | Red

This is ripe, exhibiting plum, macerated cherry, blueberry and spice aromas and flavors. There are also hints of smoke and mineral and a firm underpinning of tannins. This finishes with a lingering aftertaste of sweet fruit and mineral. Best from 2013 through 2028.—*B.S.*

MASSOLINO

Barolo 2006

92 points | \$54 | 500 cases imported | Red

Starts out with sweet cherry, strawberry and tobacco flavors, before the massive tannins claim the finish. There's a strong mineral streak, too. All of the elements are well-balanced, just needing time to integrate. Best from 2014 through 2032.—*B.S.*

FONTANAFREDDA

Barolo di Serralunga d'Alba 2006

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

Ripe and smoky, delivering plum, black cherry, spice and mineral elements that bind with the firm structure. This is dense and chewy, with a slightly dry finish. There is plenty of fruit here, so be patient. Best from 2014 through 2030.—*B.S.*

FONTANAFREDDA

Barolo La Villa 2006

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

Ripe, almost jammy, offering plum, blackberry and black cherry notes tinged with mineral. This picks up grip on the finish, where it shows fine length and balance. Best from 2013 through 2027.—*B.S.*

OREGON

CARDWELL HILL

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Reserve 2008

92 points | \$30 | 441 cases made | Red

This sneaks up on you. It starts silky, with a sour cherry edge to the smooth berry and spice flavors, then gets fleshier as the flavors deepen and linger impressively. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

COLENE CLEMENS

Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains Estate Reserve 2008

92 points | \$42 | 440 cases made | Red

Supple and refined, with a lovely pink peppercorn tinge to the raspberry, pear and tea leaf flavors, dancing through a veil of fine tannins to a long, vivid finish. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

TWELVE

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District 144 2008

92 points | \$35 | 110 cases made | Red

Bright and lively, featuring juicy raspberry and cherry fruit that dances against refreshing acidity. Tannins have a mild grip on the finish. This is likable already, and the finish doesn't quit. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

ADEA

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Deano's Pinot 2008

91 points | \$30 | 260 cases made | Red

Light in texture, with lovely orange-tinged raspberry, cranberry and black tea flavors that gain in depth as the finish rolls on. Shows integrity, balance and finesse. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

AMITY

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Crannell Single Vineyard 2008

91 points | \$35 | 118 cases made | Red

Lively, juicy and exuberant with its raspberry candy, citrus and mint flavors, dancing trippingly over the light, taut structure and lingering on the finish. This is enticing now, but should gain depth with cellaring. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

LORING

Pinot Noir Oregon Shea Vineyard 2009

91 points | \$45 | 500 cases made | Red

Dark and spicy, with density to the blueberry and plum flavors, remaining light on its feet as it dances through the increasingly clove- and mineral-laced finish. Drink now through 2013.—*H.S.*

WHITE ROSE

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Appellation Series 2008

91 points | \$45 | 388 cases made | Red

Firm and focused, yet light on its feet, aiming a beam of dark berry, cherry, herb and tar flavors through a layer of slightly scratchy tannins. This all comes together with refinement on the finish. Best from 2012 through 2018.—*H.S.*

WASHINGTON

EFESTE

Syrah Yakima Valley Eléni Red Willow Vineyards 2008

94 points | \$36 | 210 cases made | Red

Lithe, open-textured and beautifully focused to propel its currant, plum, mineral and rich meat flavors across a bed of refined tannins and into a long and blazing finish. Has exuberance, but finishes with balance. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE-DR. LOOSEN

Riesling Columbia Valley Eroica Single Berry Select 2006
93 points | \$200/375ml | 18 cases made | Dessert

Rich, sweet and syrupy, this is a golden nectar of caramel, honey, apricot and pineapple flavors, finishing silky and unctuous. The acidity seems a bit subdued this time, but the flavors are gorgeous. Drink now through 2014.—*H.S.*

CÔTE BONNEVILLE

Riesling Yakima Valley Late Harvest DuBrul
Vineyard 2009
93 points | \$105/375ml | 70 cases made | Dessert

Sweet flavors on a light frame begin with apricot and pear, picking up cream and nutmeg as the honeyed finish lingers effortlessly. Has richness and finesse. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

EFESTE

Syrah Red Mountain Ceidleigh 2008
93 points | \$36 | 450 cases made | Red

Earthy undertones add an air of mystery to this juicy, stylish mouthful of raspberry, blackberry, rose petal, soft leather and mature tobacco flavors, beautifully wrapped in fine tannins. Best from 2013 through 2018.—*H.S.*

OLSEN

Syrah Yakima Valley Heritage 2008
93 points | \$45 | 120 cases made | Red

Lithe and distinctive in character, with mineral and spice swirling through the juicy raspberry and pomegranate flavors, lingering easily on the smooth, vivid finish. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

RASA

Mourvèdre Yakima Valley Vox Populi Minick
Vineyard 2008
93 points | \$45 | 68 cases made | Red

Broad and inviting, but not at all weighty, delivering plum, blackberry, mineral, roasted meat and roasted root vegetable flavors that mingle seamlessly. The finish rolls on expressively. It's tempting to drink this now, but it should deepen with age. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

COUGAR CREST

Syrah Walla Walla Valley Stellar Vineyard Reserve 2006
92 points | \$55 | 640 cases made | Red

Dense, polished, supple and generous with its black olive-accented flavors of dried blueberry, dark plum, smoke and licorice, which persist into a long, expressive finish. Tannins are well-absorbed. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

DUSTED VALLEY

Syrah Walla Walla Valley Reserve 2007
92 points | \$53 | 136 cases made | Red

Juicy and expressive, a blast of plum, currant, mineral and black olive flavor that jets through to a long and savory finish. This can use some cellaring to soften the edges. Best after 2012.—*H.S.*

FIDELITAS

Merlot Red Mountain 2008
92 points | \$45 | 288 cases made | Red

Rich, flavorful and balanced, with refined tannins and an open texture, this delivers ripe plum, blueberry and mineral flavors. Warm wet-earth notes mingle on the extended finish. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

FIDELITAS

Optu Red Columbia Valley 2007
92 points | \$40 | 568 cases made | Red

Supple, showing a mild grip of tannin to the sweet raspberry, cherry, eucalyptus leaf and spice flavors, swirling effortlessly as the finish lingers. Graceful and complex. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Best from 2012 through 2017.—*H.S.*

GORMAN

Chenin Blanc Columbia Valley Late Harvest
The Cry Baby 2009
92 points | \$28/375ml | 191 cases made | Dessert

Sweet and syrupy, but not heavy, with pear and apple cider flavors that linger on the silky finish. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

OLSEN

Edythe Mae Vineyard Yakima Valley 2008
92 points | \$38 | 191 cases made | Red

Rich, bold and jazzy, this is a lively mouthful of blackberry, raspberry, floral and mineral flavors that keep dancing through the vivid finish. Shows intensity, but doesn't feel weighty. Syrah. Best from 2012 through 2016.—*H.S.*

GORDON BROTHERS

Gewürztraminer Columbia Valley Ice Wine 2009
91 points | \$37/375ml | 147 cases made | Dessert

Dark, very sweet and rich with honey, walnut and spice overtones to the apricot and raisin flavors. Lingers gently. Drink now through 2014.—*H.S.*

MATTHEWS

Syrah Columbia Valley 2008
91 points | \$39 | 160 cases made | Red

Dark, juicy and peppery, offering a plush mouthful of plum and boysenberry fruit lifted by lively acidity, finishing with refinement. Drink now through 2014.—*H.S.*

DUSTED VALLEY

Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley V.R. Special 2007
90 points | \$53 | 225 cases made | Red

Smooth and spicy, with toasty, oaky notes showing more prominently at this point than the dark berry flavors. Needs time to come together. Best after 2014.—*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.

PENFOLDS

Shiraz South Australia Grange 2005

97 points | \$500 | 2,000 cases imported | Red

Supple, refined and focused, this is generous with its ripe currant, blackberry jam and fresh cherry flavors playing against grace notes of coffee, tar, white pepper and molasses. The finish keeps hovering and gets richer with each sip. Lip-smackingly good. Best after 2014. *From Australia.—H.S.*

LUIGI PIRA

Barolo Marenca 2006

96 points | \$62 | 500 cases imported | Red

The black currant, violet, black cherry and mineral aromas and flavors in this red are seductive. This is rich and supple, though well-structured, with only hints of the tar and medicinal herb notes of many Barolos. Long, fruit and mineral aftertaste. Best from 2013 through 2032. *From Italy.—B.S.*

EFESTE

Syrah Yakima Valley Jolie Bouche Boushey Vineyard 2008
95 points | \$36 | 385 cases made | Red

Focused, sharply defined and beautifully expressive, this packs an enormous range of red berry, pomegranate, tomato leaf and roasted beet flavor into a tight, taut, savory jet of deliciousness. Stylish, balanced and raucous all at the same time. Drink now through 2018. *From Washington.—H.S.*

GORMAN

Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain
The Evil Twin 2008

95 points | \$60 | 400 cases made | Red

Supple, focused and intense, a lithe mouthful of bright blueberry and plum tinged with green olive and spice notes, which swirl through the expressive finish. Tannins are present but not obtrusive, letting the flavors sail on and on. Drink now through 2015. *From Washington.—H.S.*

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.

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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

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

Bruce Sanderson Tasting director, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1993. Tasting beat: Burgundy, Champagne, Germany, Italy

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Tasting staff:

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