

# Wine Spectator's Insider Weekly

February 12, 2025

A First Look at Our Editors' Most Exciting New Wines

## California

### Pinot Noir



DOMAINE DE LA CÔTE

#### Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Bloom's Field 2023

95 points | \$105 | 727 cases made | Red

Mulberry and raspberry fruit leads the way in this red, with flashes of iris and hibiscus peeking in. There's a rapier of fresh acidity for spine while bay leaf, savory and wet slate notes add underlying tension throughout. The lovely pinpoint finish has a steady persistence. Best from 2026 through 2038.—*J.M.*

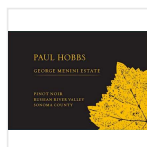


DOMAINE DE LA CÔTE

#### Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Memorious 2023

94 points | \$100 | 452 cases made | Red

This has a distinct density—showing intensity without heaviness—as its core of red and black cherry fruit bristles with grilled savory and flint notes. A very racy underpinning through the finish leaves echos of kirsch and wet slate. Very distinctive. Best from 2026 through 2036.—*J.M.*

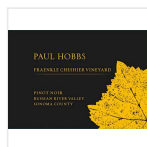


PAUL HOBBS

#### Pinot Noir Russian River Valley George Menini Estate 2023

95 points | \$95 | 870 cases made | Red

This is vivid, bristling with crunchy acidity that helps drive a mix of mulberry, black cherry and raspberry fruit along, while letting in rose hip, hibiscus and pomegranate accents along the edges. Expressive and well-defined, this is brimming with energy. Best from 2026 through 2035.—*J.M.*

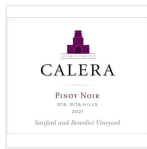


PAUL HOBBS

#### Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Fraenkle Cheshier Vineyard 2023

94 points | \$95 | 280 cases made | Red

Lively energy carries a vibrant mix of mulberry, red and black cherry and boysenberry flavors along, while vivacious violet and hibiscus accents gild the edges prettily. The mouthwatering finish brings you back quickly for more. Best from 2026 through 2033.—*J.M.*

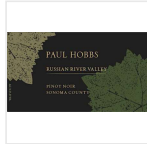


**CALERA**

**Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Sanford  
& Benedict Vineyard 2021**

**93 points | \$54 | 132 cases made | Red**

A pure, sleek and steady wine, with a stylish beam of raspberry and cherry puree notes flanked by light red tea and singed sandalwood notes. A subtle savory echo chimes in as the fruit flows through the finish. Drink now through 2031.—*J.M.*



**PAUL HOBBS**

**Pinot Noir Russian River Valley  
2023**

**93 points | \$80 | 10,170 cases made | Red**

This has solid, punchy drive, with pomegranate, cherry and blood orange pâte de fruit flavors in the mix, along with hibiscus and lilac notes. Stays fresh and engaging through the finish. Best from 2026 through 2031.—*J.M.*

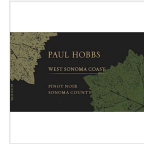


**DEHLINGER**

**Pinot Noir Russian River Valley  
Garbro Ranch 2023**

**93 points | \$50 | 255 cases made | Red**

This has nice succulence right from the start, with blood orange, pomegranate and damson plum coulis notes that stretch out nicely while lilac and iris accents chime in. Ends with a bright finish. Best from 2026 through 2031.—*J.M.*



**PAUL HOBBS**

**Pinot Noir West Sonoma Coast  
2023**

**93 points | \$80 | 2,400 cases made | Red**

This has lovely juicy energy, with hibiscus-laced black cherry and mulberry fruit that drives along nicely, infused through the finish with black tea and a sparkle of anise. Well-defined, pure and almost breezy in feel. Drink now through 2028.—*J.M.*

## France

### Barsac & Sauternes



**CHÂTEAU DOISY DAËNE**

**Barsac L'Extravagant 2022**

**95 points | \$220 / 375ml | 80 cases made | White**

Bright, slightly high-toned and pure, this delivers a beam of white peach, Meyer lemon and green almond that is lengthy, poised and sleek in feel. Honeysuckle and salted butter notes gild the finish liberally. Drink now through 2050.—*J.M.*



**CHÂTEAU SUDIRAUT**

**Sauternes 2022**

**95 points | \$72 | 3,324 cases made | White**

A plump, broad style, with marzipan, toasted almond and bitter orange notes leading the way for mango, creamed peach and papaya flavors. Rich and honeyed, but with an alluring, shimmering energy through its long finish. Drink now through 2045.—*J.M.*



**CHÂTEAU LAFAURIE-PEYRAGUEY**

**Sauternes Crème de Tête 2022**

**95 points | \$165 | 200 cases made | White**

Creamed Anjou pear, warm tarte Tatin and apricot chutney notes result in a broad and muscular feel, while singed brioche, bitter almond and papaya fill in through the finish. Dense and youthfully backward. Best from 2028 through 2045.—*J.M.*



**CHÂTEAU CLIMENS**

**Barsac 2022**

**94 points | SNA | 50 cases imported | White**

An enticing white, with lively notes of graham cracker, pie crust and ginger tossed in with glazed pear, clove-studded orange and apricot flavors. The deliciously unctuous finish offers lingering hints of bitter almond and green tea. Drink now through 2045.—*J.M.*

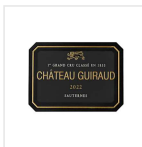


### CHATEAU DE MYRAT

## Barsac 2022

94 points | \$48 | 1,666 cases made | White

A flattering style, with toasted almond and coconut notes infusing a core of candied pineapple, dried apricot and just-baked peach. Brioche and ginger details fill in liberally on the finish. Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Muscadelle. Drink now through 2045.—*J.M.*



### CHATEAU GUIRAUD

## Sauternes 2022

94 points | \$60 | 4,166 cases made | White

Juicy and fresh, with a mix of delightfully ripe peach and yellow apple fruit that plays nicely with honeysuckle, ginger and jasmine through the finish. Exotic in bent, with lovely energy. Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now through 2040.—*J.M.*



### CHATEAU SIGALAS RABAUD

## Sauternes 2022

93 points | \$58 | 804 cases made | White

This is lively, with juicy apricot, nectarine, Anjou pear and honey flavors that have good energy and inner brightness. Green fig and candied lemon peel notes add range on the finish, which shows a toasted coconut echo as well. Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now through 2042.—*J.M.*

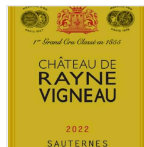


### CHATEAU DOISY DAËNE

## Barsac 2022

94 points | \$70 | 80 cases imported | White

A bright white, with freshly sliced pineapple, candied lemon peel, orange blossom and elderflower honey notes seamlessly entwined. There's a pretty accent of salted butter on the generous finish. Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now through 2045.—*J.M.*



### CHATEAU DE RAYNE VIGNEAU

## Sauternes 2022

93 points | \$50 | 450 cases imported | White

Juicy and frankly ripe, with mouthfilling apricot, peach and guava flavors laced with a hint of green fig. Ginger and pie crust notes add range on the flattering finish. Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now through 2040.—*J.M.*

# Chile



## VIÑA DON MELCHOR

### **Cabernet Sauvignon Puente Alto Don Melchor Vineyard 2022**

**95 points | \$185 | 3,500 cases imported | Red**

Elegant, nuanced and concentrated, with a loamy-clay cast to the fresh thyme and subtle tuberose aromas, which give way to a rich yet balanced core of blackberry and cassis notes lifted by saline-edged acidity. Wonderfully fresh while moving toward the finish, where the flavors come together and linger harmoniously around well-formed tannins. Drink now through 2040.—A.R.



## LAPOSTOLLE

### **La Parcelle 8 Vieilles Vignes Apalta 2021**

**94 points | \$180 | 500 cases imported | Red**

Elegant and fresh in feel, this medium-bodied red delivers layers of heliotrope, olive and herb details. Blackberry and plum flavors swell with intensity, adding subtle cedar, graphite and cassis notes. The spice-filled finish offers refined tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2036.—A.R.

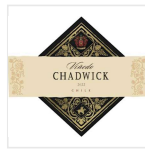


## VIÑA ERRÁZURIZ

### **Don Maximiano Founder's Reserve Aconcagua Valley 2021**

**94 points | \$100 | 1,278 cases made | Red**

Savory and sage notes pave the way in this refined version, with white pepper accents to the vibrant raspberry and cherry core, enlivened by fresh acidity. Details of cassis and truffle weave in and linger as this moves to the finish line around well-integrated tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Carmenère. Drink now through 2035. —A.R.



## VIÑEDO CHADWICK

### **Puente Alto 2022**

**95 points | \$390 | 300 cases imported | Red**

This complex and multilayered effort lures you in with fresh violet, crushed fennel seed, damp earth and graphite aromas that give way to a rich, commanding and well-defined core of black cherry, plum and cassis. A subtle saline edge checks in, lending a mouthwatering quality as this moves to the lengthy finish around dense, structured tannins, plus late echoes of dried mint and bay leaf. Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2040.—A.R.



## VIÑA ALMAVIVA

### **Puente Alto 2022**

**94 points | \$180 | 1,200 cases imported | Red**

This complex red slowly reveals itself, beginning with opening notes of dried violet, cedar wood and turmeric that give way to a dense core of ripe blackberry and cassis, with hints of tobacco leaf and graphite underneath. There's plenty of structure, plus a gentle nudge of acidity to let the flavors play out on the chocolatey finish, with dense yet integrated tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenère, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2038.—A.R.



## VIÑA SANTA RITA

### **Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley Casa Real Reserva Especial 2022**

**94 points | \$120 | 500 cases imported | Red**

Restrained but poised for a long future. With time, this reveals mahogany, tobacco and dried sage details, yet there's a tremendous presence on the palate. Offers concentrated plum and raspberry flavors that swell around its lively acidity, adding layers of dark chocolate as this finishes around fine tannins. Best from 2026 through 2036. —A.R.



#### CASAS DEL BOSQUE

### **Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley Gran Bosque Private Reserve 2021**

**93 points | \$60 | 200 cases imported | Red**

Floral, spice and cassis accents reveal this red's plush and concentrated core of creamed plum and black raspberry, offset by piquant red chili and lively details of pomegranate and molasses. Finishes with earthy, smoky chocolate notes and integrated tannins. Drink now through 2035.—*A.R.*



#### CONCHA Y TORO

### **Chardonnay Limarí Valley Amelia Quebrada Seca 2023**

**93 points | \$55 | 682 cases imported | White**

A complex and layered white, with spiced pastry, toasted almond and verbena notes that join an energetic, lingering core of clove-laced baked apple and grilled lemon. Finishes with nice length and a salty, minerally freshness centered on the core flavors. Drink now through 2028.—*A.R.*



#### CLOS APALTA

### **Le Petit Clos Apalta 2021**

**93 points | \$65 | 1,800 cases imported | Red**

Refined and structured, offering plenty of graphite and herbal notes up front that give way to a dark chocolate-coated blackberry and spiced plum center, with a twinge of cassis underneath. The tannins show some grip, but the finish also gives a sense of freshness as the core flavors linger nicely. Carmenère, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026 through 2036.—*A.R.*

## **California**

### **Sparkling Wine**



#### ROEDERER ESTATE

### **Brut Rosé Anderson Valley L'Ermitage 2019**

**95 points | \$115 | 460 cases made | Rosé**

A gorgeous sparkler that's flush with character yet elegant and refined, with lovely, crisp strawberry and red apple flavors laced with gingerbread, roasted nut and rose petal tones that sail on the lovely finish. Drink now through 2030.—*T.F.*



#### ROEDERER ESTATE

### **Brut Anderson Valley L'Ermitage 2019**

**94 points | \$80 | 4,850 cases made | White**

Dynamic yet elegantly structured, with alluring flavors of Asian pear, baked apple, brioche, clove and nutmeg that build richness on the graceful finish. Drink now through 2027.—*T.F.*



**SCHRAMSBERG**

**Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs North Coast 2020**

**94 points | \$70 | 596 cases made | White**

A seductive and expressive sparkler, with notes of yeast roll, lemon, baked apple and toasted, spiced nuts that sail on the dry but luxurious finish. Drink now through 2027.—*T.F.*



**ROEDERER ESTATE**

**Anderson Valley Apple Alley Vineyard 2020**

**93 points | \$55 | 585 cases made | White**

Precise and alluring, with elegantly layered apple, citrus, blanched almond and lemon custard flavors that finish on a refreshing, steely accent. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Drink now.—*T.F.*



**SCHRAMSBERG**

**Brut Rosé Napa Valley Querencia 2020**

**93 points | \$80 | 1,512 cases made | Rosé**

Graceful and delicate, with pretty flavors of rose petal, strawberry, fresh ginger and spices that sail on the long and lovely finish. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Drink now.—*T.F.*



**SCHRAMSBERG**

**J. Schram Noirs North Coast 2015**

**94 points | \$150 | 1,765 cases made | White**

Opulent and almost extravagant in style, with rich flavors of baked apple and Asian pear accented by cherry, brioche, roasted hazelnut and toasty spices that linger on the crisp finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Drink now through 2027.—*T.F.*

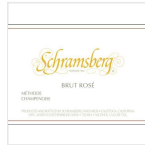


**SCHRAMSBERG**

**Brut Blanc de Blancs North Coast Late Disgorged 2013**

**93 points | \$110 | 1,109 cases made | White**

Bright and fresh but with an appealing sheen of maturity, this sparkler offers Asian pear, roasted almond and cinnamon brioche accents that build richness on the lush finish. Drink now.—*T.F.*

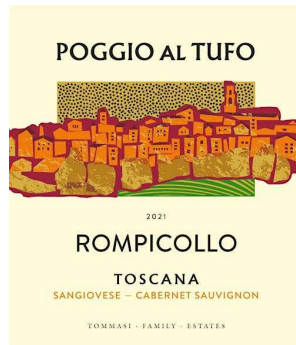


**SCHRAMSBERG**

**Brut Rosé North Coast 2021**

**93 points | \$50 | 16,828 cases made | Rosé**

A lovely blush that's refined and festive, with vibrant strawberry, orange blossom and cherry flavors that glide on the refreshing finish. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Drink now.—*T.F.*



**TOMMASI**

### Sangiovese-Cabernet Sauvignon Toscana Poggio al Tufo Rompicollo 2021

91 points | \$21 | 7,000 cases imported | Red

**Tasting Note:**

Black currant, blackberry, iron, tapenade and mint aromas and flavors highlight this thickly textured red. Firm and elegant, showing all the characteristics of Cabernet Franc. Ends long. Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2026 through 2035.—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 wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

### Chile, California & France



**CLOS APALTA**

### Apalta 2021

96 points | \$170 | 1,500 cases imported | Red

**Chile**

Aromatically complex and intriguing, this offers a spiced plum pastry note that melds with petrichor, pine, dried violet and cocoa powder elements. The palate is round and richly textured, with Szechuan peppercorn accents to the concentrated black cherry, plum and cassis center. Everything comes together harmoniously on the finish and lingers, with present but integrated tannins. A stunner that should develop nicely in the cellar. Carmenère, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2040. From Chile. —A.R.



**DOMAINE DE LA CÔTE**

### Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills La Côte 2023

96 points | \$155 | 653 cases made | Red

**California**

Thyme, sage and savory notes spike a core of intense griotte fruit, while flashes of pomegranate, damson plum and blood orange work their way in as well. The long, mouthwatering finish has a terrific chiseled feel, with a wet flint note as its energy source. Best from 2026 through 2040. From California. —J.M.



**DOMAINE DE LA CÔTE**

**Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Sous Le Chêne 2023**

96 points | \$165 | 98 cases made | Red

**California**

Sage brush, thyme and pepper notes give this a bristling feel up front, while the core of pomegranate, blood orange and bitter cherry waits in reserve. There's a lovely racy feel through the finish, with a sanguine note twanging brightly, adding length that lets the fruit slowly flesh out. For the cellar. Best from 2026 through 2040. From California. — *J.M.*



**CHÂTEAU COUTET**

**Barsac 2022**

95 points | \$50 | 5,400 cases made | White

**France**

Ripe, unctuous and deliciously rendered, this pumps out orange blossom, peach, apricot and pineapple upside-down cake notes that are seamlessly stitched with bitter almond and orange threads. Offers a long, seductively glazed finish. Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Muscadelle. Drink now through 2045. From France. —*J.M.*



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**Founded 1976.**

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Our tasting staff includes 15 tasters and tasting coordinators, who work together to review more than 16,000 wines each year; more than 400,000 reviews are currently available in our online database.

We always review wines in independent blind tastings. This is your guarantee that our reviews are fair and objective, and that a wine's reputation and price do not influence its score. Each taster covers specific wines and regions; their initials are appended to their reviews. Our credibility is built on their expertise and independence.

**Wine Spectator's 100-Point Scale**

95 - 100	Classic	80 - 84	Good
90 - 94	Outstanding	75 - 79	Mediocre
85 - 89	Very Good	50 - 74	Not Recommended

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