

Wine Spectator Insider

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POWERFUL REDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, up to 97 points, spice up this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, with favorites from California, France and Italy.

California Rhône fans have plenty to celebrate here, with the latest Saxum James Berry Vineyard and Bone Rock Syrah, Denner Grenache and Dirt Worshipper and a trio from Terry Hoage. Over in the Rhône proper, find the Cornas expressions of A. Clape and Jérôme Despesse, plus the Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf La Crau white. Rounding out this report are the three Bs of Piedmont: Barolo, Barbaresco and Barbera. Massolino, Attilio Ghisolfi, La Spinetta and Elio Altare all deliver standout examples. Be sure to check out the six Hot Wines on page 4.

CALIFORNIA Grenache, Syrah & Blends

SAXUM

James Berry Vineyard Paso Robles 2011
93 points | \$89 | 1,300 cases made | Red

Pure, rich and deeply flavored, this muscular effort centers around penetrating blackberry, black licorice, charcoal and loamy earth notes. Ends with rustic, chewy tannins that will need a few years of cellaring to subside. Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah, Counoise and Roussanne. Best from 2015 through 2026.—*J.L.*

SAXUM

Syrah Paso Robles Bone Rock James Berry Vineyard 2011
93 points | \$89 | 460 cases made | Red

Classic notes of pepper and wild berry give this sturdy red plenty of backbone and tension. The tannins are more muscular and gripping than in recent vintages, giving the flavors traction and length. Drink now through 2026.—*J.L.*

DENNER

Grenache Paso Robles 2011
92 points | \$58 | 250 cases made | Red

A spot-on Paso Grenache, dark, rich and layered, with a plush texture and deep blackberry, boysenberry and berry pie notes, featuring hints of black licorice and a mix of cedar and nutmeg aromas. Tightens on the finish, but the flavors manage to push through. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

DENNER

The Dirt Worshipper Central Coast 2011
91 points | \$63 | 700 cases made | Red

The core dark berry flavors are taut and focused in this scaled-down version of the Dirt Worshipper, featuring all the essential notes of white pepper, fresh-turned earth, cedar and tobacco leaf. The tannins are dry and savory on the aftertaste. Syrah and Viognier. Drink now through 2023.—*J.L.*

TERRY HOAGE

5 Blocks Cuvee Paso Robles 2011
90 points | \$55 | 310 cases made | Red

Rounding out the chewy tannins with an array of mocha, dark berry, black licorice and chocolate brownie, this is well-focused, graceful, deep and persistent. Syrah, Mourvèdre, Grenache and Cinsault. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

TERRY HOAGE

Syrah Paso Robles Three-Four 2011
90 points | \$80 | 130 cases made | Red

Offering a harmonious mix of dark berry, licorice, mocha, bacon and toasty oak, this is firm, rich and dense, with well-integrated tannins. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

TERRY HOAGE

The Pick Cuvee Paso Robles 2011

90 points | \$55 | 290 cases made | Red

Supple-textured, with graceful cola, spice, licorice, mineral, raspberry and blueberry notes, this is engagingly complex, ending with a layered finish and good length. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Counoise. Drink now through 2023.—*J.L.*

SAXUM

Terry Hoage Vineyard Paso Robles 2011

90 points | \$89 | 120 cases made | Red

A rugged blend shaped by firm, drying, grainy tannins, this features a fruit profile of rich dark berry, raspberry and touches of berry jam, with spice and cedar accents. Ends with chewy tannins. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2023.—*J.L.*

FRANCE

Rhône

A. CLAPE

Cornas Renaissance 2010

93 points | \$70 | 120 cases imported | Red

A big, gutsy, mouthfilling style, with lots of briar and ganache notes leading the way, followed quickly by plum sauce, blackberry coulis and black currant paste flavors. The long, dark, juicy and engaging finish reveals an echo of alder. Best from 2015 through 2025.—*J.M.*

JÉRÔME DESPESE

Cornas 2010

93 points | \$60 | 125 cases made | Red

Tightly coiled for now, with a gutsy core of blackberry, black currant and bitter plum notes held in check by broad, tarry tannins. Loads of dark olive, fresh espresso and singed iron accents course through the finish, where the dark fruit echoes. Best from 2016 through 2025.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White La Crau 2012

92 points | \$74 | 385 cases imported | White

Lush and enticing, with brioche and macadamia nut aromas giving way to creamed melon, heather honey and yellow apple fruit flavors. A light kiss of toast weaves through the finish. Drink now.—*J.M.*

FAMILLE PERRIN

Vinsobres Les Hauts de Julien 2011

91 points | \$49 | 100 cases imported | Red

The graphite, violet, blackberry coulis and licorice notes are wound together in this version, dense but elegant, with a floral echo on the finish and a buried mineral edge. Should open pleasantly with modest cellaring. Drink now through 2016.—*J.M.*

FAMILLE PERRIN

Côtes du Rhône-Villages Cairanne Peyre Blanche 2011

90 points | \$25 | 500 cases imported | Red

A pure, solid version, with a core of blueberry, blackberry and bitter cherry fruit aligned to a solid graphite edge and carrying through the judiciously toasted finish. Drink now through 2015.—*J.M.*

DAVID REYNAUD

St.-Joseph 350m 2011

90 points | \$38 | 100 cases imported | Red

Well-layered, with flavors of raspberry and boysenberry preserves lined with notes of graphite and fruitcake. The fresh, racy acidity is pleasantly embedded. Drink now through 2016.—*J.M.*

ITALY

Piedmont / Red

ATTILIO GHISOLFI

Barolo Bussia 2009

94 points | \$60 | 800 cases imported | Red

Aromatic, exhibiting cherry, floral, licorice, tar and tobacco notes, married to a silky texture and a graceful, intense profile. Should show fine harmony and potential once all the elements knit together. Best from 2016 through 2030.—*B.S.*

MARCHESI DI GRÉSY

Barbaresco Gaiun Martinenga 2009

93 points | \$70 | 100 cases imported | Red

A bright, focused style, featuring cherry, strawberry, floral and tobacco flavors. Harmonious and elegant, finishing with an aftertaste of tar, mineral and white pepper. Best from 2015 through 2026.—*B.S.*

ALBINO ROCCA

Barbaresco Ronchi 2010

93 points | \$50 | 1,666 cases made | Red

Packed with cherry, raspberry, licorice and spice flavors, this rich red features a vibrant structure that drives the flavors to a lingering conclusion. Turns more elegant and tightly wound on the finish. Best from 2016 through 2027.—*B.S.*

BRUNO ROCCA

Barbaresco Rabajà 2010

93 points | \$94 | 220 cases imported | Red

Shows impeccable balance, with expressive cherry, strawberry, floral, licorice and spice flavors. The tannins are there, but everything is in the right place for a promising evolution. Best from 2016 through 2028.—*B.S.*

GIGI ROSSO

Barolo Arione 2009

93 points | \$49 | 250 cases imported | Red

An elegant style, exuding rose, cherry, strawberry, tobacco and leather aromas and flavors matched to a linear frame. Well-defined and balanced, offering a long finish of earth, spice and savory details. Best from 2016 through 2030.—*B.S.*

LA SPINETTA

Barbaresco Vigneto Valeirano Vürsù 2010
93 points | \$135 | 1,167 cases made | Red

An alluring mix of cherry, raspberry, mint and earthy, balsamic notes lends distinction to this red, showing power and balance, with a long finish of mineral, spice and underbrush. Best from 2016 through 2028.—*B.S.*

ANTONIOLO

Gattinara San Francesco 2008
92 points | \$60 | 300 cases made | Red

A rich red, with a pure vein of cherry, raspberry and floral notes, augmented by tobacco and briar elements. Fresh and firm, presenting a mineral accent on the long aftertaste. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

MASSOLINO

Barolo Margheria 2009
92 points | \$100 | 460 cases made | Red

Beautiful cherry, strawberry, tobacco and leather flavors are displayed on the rich texture and firm structure of this sinewy red. The tannins are dusty, but this manages to find equilibrium on the long, savory finish. Best from 2017 through 2032.—*B.S.*

MASSOLINO

Barolo Parussi 2009
92 points | \$100 | 400 cases made | Red

The tobacco and briar notes are effusive in this sleek, firmly structured red, offering cherry and raspberry fruit. Offers mouthcoating tannins that leave a strong grip on the finish. A tad dry in the balance, but otherwise solid. Best from 2017 through 2030.—*B.S.*

MASSOLINO

Barolo Vigna Rionda Riserva 2007
92 points | \$140 | 700 cases made | Red

Cherry and raspberry aromas and flavors mark this sleek, elegant red. Balsamic and tobacco notes add interest as this firms up on the dusty finish. Fresh and long. Best from 2016 through 2029.—*B.S.*

MOCCAGATTA

Barbaresco 2010
92 points | \$37 | 375 cases made | Red

This evokes aromas of cherry, leather, licorice, tar and balsamico. Tight and sinewy, offering a fine, lingering aftertaste of fruit, spice and mineral. Best from 2016 through 2025.—*B.S.*

ALBINO ROCCA

Barbaresco Duemiladieci 2010
92 points | \$40 | 833 cases made | Red

Though dense, this red is elegant and harmonious, with adequate sweet fruit offsetting the lively tannins. Persists on the finish, presenting a savory, minerally aftertaste. Best from 2015 through 2026.—*B.S.*

LA SPINETTA

Barbaresco Vigneto Gallina Vürsù 2010
92 points | \$135 | 1,917 cases made | Red

Raspberry and floral aromas lead off, complemented by cherry, tobacco and underbrush flavors. The elegant character and silky texture give way to assertive, pointed tannins, but this remains long and satisfying in the end. Be patient. Best from 2017 through 2029.—*B.S.*

G.D. VAJRA

Barbera d'Alba Superiore 2010
92 points | \$40 | 150 cases imported | Red

Bursts with juicy, pure cherry and black currant fruit, shaded by notes of black pepper and earth. Builds to a long finish, with a fresh, lingering aftertaste of fruit and spice. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

ELIO ALTARE

Langhe Larigi 2010
91 points | \$95 | 416 cases made | Red

A hint of new oak lines the mint, cherry, plum and spice flavors in this suave, polished red. Balanced and bright, with flourishes of tar and licorice on the lingering finish. Barbera. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

GIACOMO GRIMALDI

Barolo 2009
91 points | \$40 | 400 cases imported | Red

A rich, meaty style, delivering cherry, plum, leather and spice flavors. Dense, with dusty tannins holding court on the finish, showing echoes of sweet fruit and spice. Best from 2016 through 2028.—*B.S.*

PELISSERO

Barbaresco Tulin 2010
91 points | \$75 | 200 cases imported | Red

Offering a mix of eucalyptus, briar and berry flavors, this red is elegant and intense at once, with an earthy accent chiming in as the finish expands. The dusty tannins leave a mouthcoating grip. Best from 2016 through 2028.—*B.S.*

PAOLO SCAVINO

Barolo Bricco Ambrogio 2009
91 points | \$75 | 350 cases imported | Red

Sweet cherry, plum, rose and licorice flavors highlight this elegant red. The tannins provide support, balanced by bright acidity and fruit. Fine length. Best from 2016 through 2028.—*B.S.*

LA SPINETTA

Barbera d'Alba Gallina 2010
91 points | \$45 | 833 cases made | Red

Balsamic aromas and flavors anchor this savory red, while cherry and raspberry details add a fruity component. This is firm and almost sinewy, with a beam of acidity weaving a cohesive thread throughout. Fine length. Drink now 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 wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

A. CLAPE

Cornas 2010

97 points | \$100 | 228 cases imported | Red

A rock-solid and well-built wine, with a frame of charcoal and tar around a core of dark plum, blackberry and black currant fruit, revealing loads of tobacco, singed bay leaf and graphite notes in reserve. This should age beautifully, showing excellent range, character and definition. Best from 2017 through 2030. *From France.* —J.M.

MASSOLINO

Barolo 2009

95 points | \$60 | 3,165 cases made | Red

A mix of cherry, cedar and tobacco flavors highlights this juicy, vibrant and almost racy red, with a layer of tannins sitting underneath the flavors. The elements come together on the long, savory aftertaste. Best from 2017 through 2032. *From Italy.*—B.S.

GIUSEPPE CORTESE

Barbaresco Rabajà 2010

94 points | \$55 | 500 cases imported | Red

Bright, with cherry, strawberry and floral aromas and flavors, this is backed by a firm yet integrated underlying structure. Beautifully poised for development, so hands off for now. Juicy and long, delivering a lingering aftertaste of cherry, spice and mineral. Best from 2015 through 2027. *From Italy.*—B.S.

ATTILIO GHISOLFI

Barolo Bussia Bricco Visette 2009

94 points | \$80 | 820 cases imported | Red

This bright red displays cherry, raspberry and spice flavors allied to a rich texture. A beam of lively acidity drives the flavors to a lingering conclusion. Offers a fine combination of elegance and power, with a terrific aftertaste of fruit and mineral. Best from 2016 through 2033. *From Italy.*—B.S.

ATTILIO GHISOLFI

Barolo Fantini Riserva 2007

94 points | \$120 | 540 cases imported | Red

Seductive, with licorice, mulled cherry and spice aromas and flavors leading the way, combining style with plenty of muscle and well-integrated, dusty tannins. Echoes of licorice and cherry line the long, firmly gripping finish. Best from 2016 through 2033. *From Italy.*—B.S.

MASSOLINO

Barolo Parafada 2009

94 points | \$100 | 375 cases made | Red

A bright, pure red, offering cherry and raspberry flavors accented by cedar, tobacco and woody notes. Linear and taut, presenting a firm grip of tannins, with plenty of energy driving the long, mouth-watering finish. Best from 2017 through 2032. *From Italy.*—B.S.

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

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Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 17 tasters and tasting coordinators in two offices. They work together to review nearly 20,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our ten 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; initials appended to the review identify the taster of each wine. We score wines using the 100-point scale (see green box).

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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