

Wine Spectator's Insider Weekly

October 21, 2020

A First Look at Our Editors' Most Exciting New Wines

Italy

France

Argentina

California

Hot Wines: The Best of the Week

Italy

Barolo

FONTANAFREDDA

Barolo La Rosa 2016

96 points | \$125 | 250 cases imported | Red

On the savory side, this red opens with freshly mowed grass, hay and eucalyptus aromas before revealing cherry, strawberry, rose and mineral flavors. Fleishy, with a matrix of dense tannins flexing their muscles on the finish. Shows excellent potential. Best from 2023 through 2042. —B.S.



LUCIANO SANDRONE

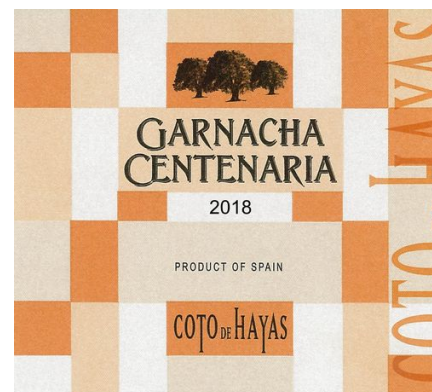
Barolo Vite Talin 2013

96 points | \$450 | 20 cases imported | Red

This is elegant and detailed, featuring cherry, strawberry, eucalyptus, iron and tea aromas and flavors. Turns dense and solid as the assertive tannins still have the upper hand, yet this is long and the sweet fruit returns at the end. The new Barolo from Luciano Sandrone. Best from 2023 through 2045. —B.S.



VALUE PICK OF THE WEEK SPAIN



BODEGAS ARAGONESAS

LUIGI BAUDANA

Barolo Cerretta 2016

95 points | \$90 | 250 cases made | Red

This is perfumed, featuring graphite, white pepper and underbrush aromas, with a core of cherry and currant flavors. Elegant and linear, with firm tannins giving support on the finish, showing fine balance and length. Best from 2023 through 2043. —*B.S.*

TENUTA CUCCO

Barolo Cerrati 2016

95 points | \$76 | 400 cases imported | Red

A supple red, evoking red berry, floral and rose hip tea flavors, with hints of iron, tobacco and spice. Almost seamless in texture and balanced, with taut, refined tannins shoring up the finish. This is long and leaves a lasting impression of fruit. Best from 2023 through 2045. —*B.S.*

LUIGI PIRA

Barolo Vignarionda 2016

95 points | \$106 | 200 cases imported | Red

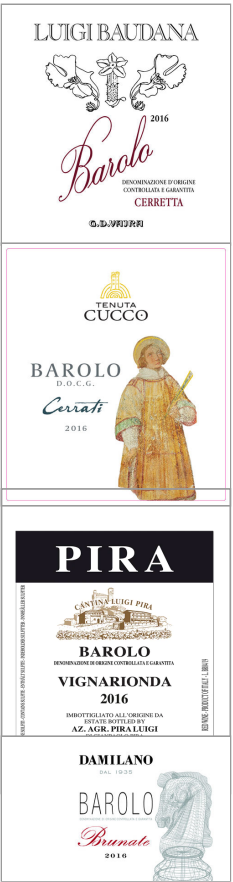
Ripe cherry and floral aromas and flavors hold court in this light-weight yet dense red. Tar, tobacco, white pepper and eucalyptus accents add depth as the tightly wound tannins flash on the lingering aftertaste. Never flamboyant, this is expressive and harmonious. Best from 2023 through 2043. —*B.S.*

DAMILANO

Barolo Brunate 2016

94 points | \$90 | 50 cases imported | Red

Aromas and flavors of eucalyptus, juniper, tar, black cherry and plum are the hallmarks of this beefy red, which is fresh and packs a firm grip on the finish, yet shows the promise of ripe fruit too. Needs time. Best from 2023 through 2042. —*B.S.*



Garnacha Campo de Borja Coto de Hayas

Centenaria 2018

92 points | \$16 | 1,100 cases imported | Red

Tasting Note:

Rich and velvety, this red is big but gentle, with raspberry jam, cherry pie and vanilla flavors that caress the palate. Well-integrated tannins give subtle structure, while citrusy acidity keeps this fresh. Harmonious, in a ripe, fruit-centered style. Drink now through 2026. —*T.M.*

ODDERO

Barolo Vigna Rionda Riserva 2013

95 points | \$160 | 325 cases made | Red

This needs air to reveal its wild strawberry, cherry, rose, tar and camphor aromas and flavors. The delicate fruit is underscored by an austere, chewy profile, yet this remains complex, fresh and balanced overall. The superb finish echoes the fruity and savory elements. Best from 2022 through 2040. —*B.S.*

RENATO CORINO

Barolo Stefano Corino Roncaglie 2016

94 points | \$73 | 125 cases made | Red

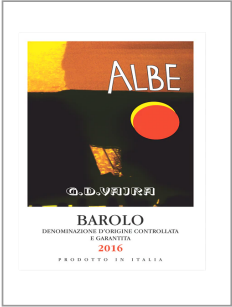
Mint and eucalyptus notes frame cherry, strawberry and floral flavors in this harmonious red. The solid grip is integrated with the juicy texture and lively acidity. Fine length. Best from 2023 through 2042. —*B.S.*

G.D. VAJRA

Barolo Albe 2016

94 points | \$40 | 3,300 cases made | Red

Elegant and expressive, this red evokes cherry, raspberry and floral notes, aligned to a refined structure. This is balanced and leaves an aftertaste of fruit, tobacco and iron. Best from 2023 through 2043. —*B.S.*



France

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2018

96 points | \$118 | 504 cases imported | Red

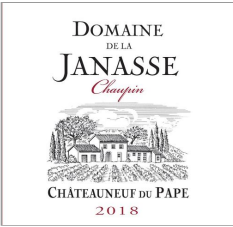
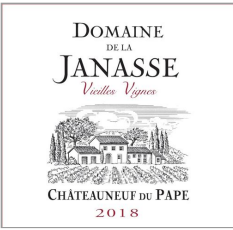
This offers up a lushly textured set of crushed plum, boysenberry and blackberry fruit flavors scored with licorice snap throughout and laced with black tea on the finish. A subtle mineral edge peeks through the wall of fruit on the finish. For the cellar. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Best from 2023 through 2038. —*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Chaupin 2018

95 points | \$85 | 504 cases imported | Red

This bursts forth with delicious crushed plum, cherry puree and raspberry coulis notes that stretch out slowly through the lengthy, anise- and black tea-infused finish. Not shy with its fruit, but this has more than enough energy and detail for balance. Best from 2021 through 2038. —*J.M.*



DOMAINE FERRANDO

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Colombis 2018

95 points | \$117 | Red

This is a beauty, with a seductive display of Turkish coffee, singed alder, steeped plum and warmed anise aromas and flavors that move in unison, backed by a subtle garrigue note through the finish. A late echo of warm earth adds a finishing touch. Best from 2021 through 2037. —*J.M.*

ST.-COSME

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2017

95 points | \$62 | 665 cases imported | Red

Offers mulled plum, blackberry and black cherry fruit mixed in with steeped black tea, sandalwood and tobacco leaf notes. A mineral edge adds cut and drive to the finish, while the black tea note smolders seductively. Built for the cellar. Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah and Cinsault. Best from 2022 through 2036. —*J.M.*



LE CLOS DU CAILLOU

Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Réserve 2018

94 points | \$210 | 60 cases imported | Red

Ripe and silky in feel, with waves of creamed plum, blackberry and cherry fruit gliding along, while licorice snap, rooibos tea and incense notes weave through. Offers nice persistence on the finish. Grenache and Syrah. Best from 2021 through 2033. —J.M.



BOSQUET DES PAPES

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Tradition 2018

93 points | \$50 | 500 cases imported | Red

Solidly packed, with a lively black licorice frame around a core of lightly steeped plum and blackberry fruit. Light singed alder and garrigue notes play out through the finish, with the fruit keeping the upper hand. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Best from 2021 through 2033. —J.M.



DOMAINE DES BOSQUETS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Castellas... 2018

93 points | \$90 | 10 cases imported | Red

A ripe, polished and fruit-driven style, with a ball of creamed plum and cherry puree rolling along, picking up light floral, tea and singed vanilla hints along the way. Ends with a long, seductive finish. Best from 2022 through 2032. —J.M.



LA FONT DU VENT

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Tradition 2018

93 points | \$47 | 168 cases imported | Red

Open-knit, with a pretty mix of steeped plum and lightly mulled raspberry notes infused with anise, singed sandalwood and garrigue accents. A charming wine. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Best from 2021 through 2033. —J.M.



Argentina

Malbec

MATERVINI

Malbec Luján de Cuyo Finca Perdriel 2017

95 points | \$90 | 200 cases imported | Red

Sumptuous dark cherry, red currant and dried raspberry flavors are supported by crunchy acidity. There are plenty of toasty notes midpalate, with a long finish that echoes with sanguine and minerally accents. Drink now through 2026. —K.M.



BODEGA CATENA ZAPATA

Malbec Mendoza Argentino 2017

94 points | \$140 | 1,900 cases made | Red

Elegant, fine-textured flavors of red fruit and red berry are backed by suave, medium-grained tannins. Silky midpalate, with a long, mineral-filled finish that features lively sanguine and light savory accents. Drink now through 2026. —K.M.



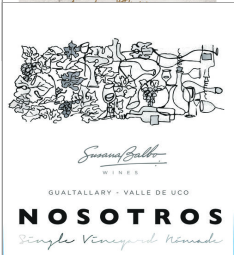
DOMINIO DEL PLATA

Susana Balbo Nosotros Single Vineyard Nomade

Gualtallary Uco Valley 2015

94 points | \$115 | 200 cases imported | Red

Intensely fruity, with vibrant acidity to the concentrated blueberry, red currant and plum flavors that feature plenty of inky accents. Shows toasty notes on the Asian spice-filled finish. Malbec. Drink now through 2026. —K.M.

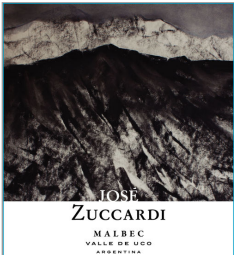


FAMILIA ZUCCARDI

Malbec Uco Valley José Zuccardi 2016

94 points | \$45 | 2,000 cases imported | Red

Explosively fruity aromas and flavors of blackberry, dark cherry and plum tart are creamy and filled with rich savory and cooking spice accents. Powerfully structured, showing dark chocolate and mocha on the finish, with hints of dried mint. Drink now through 2025. —K.M.



CORAZON DEL SOL

Malbec Los Chacayes Gran Reserva Revana Vineyard 2017

93 points | \$75 | 200 cases imported | Red

Pure-tasting, with an elegant mix of vibrant cherry, red currant and plum flavors backed by crunchy acidity. Intense minerality lines the finish, with notes of slate and plenty of spice accents. Drink now through 2025. —K.M.



MATERVINI

Malbec Canota Valley Antes Andes 2017

93 points | \$45 | 200 cases imported | Red

Lively, finely textured dried raspberry and brambly flavors show hints of rooibos tea. This is unctuously ripe midpalate, with a long finish that offers wet sandstone accents. Drink now through 2025. —K.M.



California

Sparkling

DOMAINE CARNEROS

Blanc de Blancs Carneros Le Rêve 2013

94 points | \$120 | 850 cases made | White / Sparkling

Luxurious yet structured, with roasted hazelnut, fresh ginger and cinnamon roll aromas opening to plush and vibrant baked apple, lemon tart and mineral flavors that play out on the long finish. Drink now through 2021. —*T.F.*



MUMM NAPA

DVX Napa Valley 2012

94 points | \$70 | 1,400 cases made | White / Sparkling

Impeccably focused and structured, with distinctive lemon verbena and strawberry accents that take on petrol, fresh ginger and mineral elements, finishing on a steely note. Drink now through 2021. —*T.F.*



DOMAINE CARNEROS

Brut Carneros 2016

93 points | \$33 | 30,660 cases made | White / Sparkling

Vibrant and refined, with elegantly rich Asian pear, brioche and strawberry blossom accents that take on polish and richness on the lingering finish. Drink now through 2022. —*T.F.*



DOMAINE CARNEROS

Brut Carneros Estate 2015

93 points | \$36 | 5,100 cases made | White / Sparkling

Stylish and richly structured yet impeccably refined, with lovely Asian pear, cherry, toasted brioche and ginger flavors that form a tight beam of refreshing acidity on the finish. Drink now. —*T.F.*



DOMAINE CARNEROS

Brut Carneros Ultra 2015

93 points | \$46 | 2,450 cases made | White / Sparkling

Refined and steely, yet buoyed by a core of rich and polished fruit, offering pippin apple, blanched almond and fresh ginger flavors that build toward the mineral finish. Drink now. —*T.F.*



DOMAINE CARNEROS

Brut Rosé Carneros 2016

93 points | \$44 | 7,160 cases made | White / Sparkling

Refined yet festive, offering gorgeous aromas of rose petal, strawberry and watermelon that lead to crisp, steely flavors, with a hint of graham cracker on the long, lingering finish. Drink now. —*T.F.*



IRON HORSE

Wedding Cuvée Green Valley of Russian River Valley 2016

93 points | \$48 | 1,850 cases made | White / Sparkling

A rare combination of refinement and festive exuberance, offering lovely, expressive flavors of raspberry and strawberry, laced with rose petal and graham cracker notes that fan out on the long, luxurious finish. Drink now. —*T.F.*



MUMM NAPA

Brut Napa County Prestige Extended Tirage NV

93 points | \$34 | 200 cases made | White / Sparkling

A lovely sparkler, rich and polished yet vibrant, with baked Asian pear, brioche and toasted hazelnut flavors that build crispness on the lingering finish. Drink now. —*T.F.*



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.

LUIGI BAUDANA

Barolo Baudana 2016

96 points | \$90 | 300 cases made | Red

Macerated cherry and raspberry fruit is supported by rose, iron and eucalyptus flavors in this red, which is complex and intense, with an elegant frame and beautifully integrated tannins. Just as this feels approachable, the fine-grained tannins take hold, ending with a very long finish. Best from 2023 through 2045. From Italy. —*B.S.*



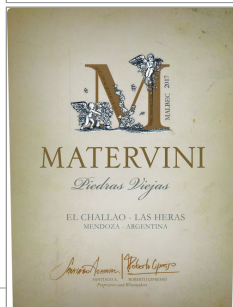
MATERVINI

Malbec Mendoza Piedras Viejas El Challao-Las Heras

2017

96 points | \$150 | 80 cases imported | Red

Powerful, refined and complex, with expressive violet and rose petal notes to the concentrated red plum, dark currant and wild cherry flavors. Shows peppery hints midpalate, with a finish loaded with French roast and slate. Drink now through 2027. From Argentina. —*K.M.*



CLOS DES PAPES

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2018

96 points | \$109 | 250 cases imported | Red

A very refined, silky style, with subtle bitter cherry, damson plum and raspberry coulis notes racing through, flanked by garrigue and sandalwood notes and ending with graceful rooibos tea and mineral threads. This offers understated luxury. Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault and Mourvèdre. Best from 2022 through 2038. From France. —*J.M.*



ROEDERER ESTATE

Brut Rosé Anderson Valley L'Ermitage 2012

95 points | \$75 | 518 cases made | Rosé / Sparkling

This has a great nose, bursting with blood orange, candied ginger and lemon peel aromas, with hints of marzipan, leading to steely and mature flavors that linger delicately on the spicy finish. Nicely combines freshness and maturity. Drink now. From California. —*T.F.*



Wine Spectator

The World's Most Authoritative Wine Publication. Founded 1976.

Wine Spectator magazine is read by more than 3 million people around the world. Our digital publications, apps and events extend this global reach to more than 6 million wine lovers.

Our tasting staff includes 15 tasters and tasting coordinators, who work together to review more than 16,000 wines each year; more than 390,000 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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