

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

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AMERICAN PINOT NOIR, ITALIAN REDS AND MORE UP TO 97 POINTS: California and Oregon face off with more than 30 outstanding and classic Pinots, including gems from Sonoma's Donum and Willamette Valley's Domaine Serene and Alexana. On the other side of the pond, elegant reds from Barbaresco also compete for your attention with stars like Moccagatta (pictured) and Gaja. Three 93-pointers here cost just \$30. *Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.*



Courtesy of Moccagatta

CALIFORNIA Pinot Noir

PATZ & HALL

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Burnside Vineyard 2016
94 points | \$85 | 396 cases made | Red

Well-structured and open-textured, featuring concentrated sandalwood and forest floor notes that accent the deep, rich red and dark fruit components. Chocolate hints chime in midpalate, with a long, creamy finish. Drink now through 2024.—*K.M.*

AU BON CLIMAT

Pinot Noir California Isabelle 2015
93 points | \$50 | 750 cases made | Red

Refined and elegant, with sandalwood notes to the cherry, dried berry and plum flavors. Cedar and spice accents fill the long, luxurious finish, caressing the palate with silky tannins. Drink now through 2023.—*K.M.*

DONUM

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Single Vineyard 2016
93 points | \$80 | 827 cases made | Red

This offers a deep well of ripe dark cherry, plum tart and dark currant flavors. Tapenade accents show midpalate, with a long finish filled with decadent Asian spice and dark chocolate notes. Drink now through 2024.—*K.M.*

PATZ & HALL

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Bootlegger's Hill 2016
93 points | \$85 | 494 cases made | Red

Lithe, pure-tasting and focused, with accents of dried tarragon to the crisp cherry and raspberry flavors. Spiced melon and pastry notes linger on the finish. Drink now through 2021.—*K.M.*

PATZ & HALL

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Goldrock Ridge Vineyard 2016
93 points | \$75 | 470 cases made | Red

A heady blend of dried meat and roasted dark fruit flavors that are full of rich sanguine notes. Cacao and Asian spice details linger on the long, luxurious finish. Drink now through 2022.—*K.M.*

PATZ & HALL

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Jenkins Ranch 2016
93 points | \$75 | 465 cases made | Red

Powerful, loaded with decadently spiced dark fruit and berry flavors that are flanked by creamy accents. Broad-textured, with a long finish filled with nutmeg and chocolate mousse details. Drink now through 2024.—*K.M.*

SHIBUMI KNOLL

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Buena Tierra Vineyard 2015
93 points | \$60 | 200 cases made | Red

Rich and well-structured, with sandalwood and dried meat notes flanking the ripe dark plum, currant and dried cherry flavors. Slate and spice details show on the finish, with some loamy hints. Drink now through 2024.—*K.M.*

ITALY

Piedmont / Barbaresco

MARCO & VITTORIO ADRIANO

Barbaresco Basarin 2015

93 points | \$30 | 500 cases imported | Red

A streak of cherry bisects the supple texture and sleek structure in this elegant red. Hints of licorice, menthol, leather and tobacco add depth as this plays out on the chewy, resonant finish. Best from 2022 through 2038.—*B.S.*

MARCO & VITTORIO ADRIANO

Barbaresco Basarin Riserva 2013

93 points | \$45 | 50 cases imported | Red

There is ample cherry fruit in this Barbaresco, yet also serious power and weight. Licorice, spice and tobacco notes chime in, with a hint of bitter almond emerging as this winds down. Mouthcoating tannins gird the finish. Best from 2023 through 2038.—*B.S.*

GIUSEPPE CORTESE

Barbaresco Rabajà 2015

93 points | \$65 | 350 cases imported | Red

This red shows an appealing combination of cherry, licorice and underbrush aromas and flavors. Smoke and leathery accents add depth, and the finish is long and solid. Best from 2021 through 2036.—*B.S.*

OREGON

Pinot Noir

ALEXANA

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Terroir Series 2016

94 points | \$34 | 5,286 cases made | Red

Precise and harmonious, offering layered raspberry and cherry flavors laced with smoky anise and spice notes, building richness toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

DOMAINE ROY & FILS

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Iron Filbert Vineyard 2016

94 points | \$120 | 400 cases made | Red

Rich and harmonious, with a sleek and complex core, offering expressive black raspberry, flint and savory pepper flavors that take on vibrancy toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

DOMAINE SERENE

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Jerusalem Hill Vineyard 2015

94 points | \$95 | 600 cases made | Red

Dynamic and expressive, with impeccably balanced and refined violet, raspberry, river stone and black tea accents that take on richness toward well-buffed tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

DOMAINE SERENE

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Evenstad Reserve 2015

94 points | \$75 | 8,900 cases made | Red

Polished and gracefully complex, with refined raspberry and strawberry flavors accented by toasty cinnamon and river stone notes, finishing with lithe tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

J. CHRISTOPHER

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Abbey Ridge Vineyard 2016

94 points | \$65 | 110 cases made | Red

Rich and refined, with vivid raspberry and blood orange aromas and layered cherry, stony mineral and tea flavors that build complexity toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

LAVINEA

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Temperance Hill Vineyard 2016

94 points | \$75 | 364 cases made | Red

Dynamic and structured, with expressive smoky meat and black cherry aromas and layered dark plum, licorice and stony mineral flavors that persist toward well-buffed tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

MAISON ROY & FILS

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Incline 2016

94 points | \$58 | 548 cases made | Red

Harmonious and polished, showing a dynamic structure, this offers notes of raspberry, violet and crushed stone, taking on richness toward well-toned tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

ROSE & ARROW

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Yamhill Close 2016

94 points | \$100 | 123 cases made | Red

Polished and alluringly structured, with rich raspberry and pomegranate flavors accented by plum tea, mineral and spice notes that glide on the long finish. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

KEN WRIGHT

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Freedom Hill Vineyard 2016

94 points | \$63 | 552 cases made | Red

Harmonious and elegantly complex, with expressive raspberry, orange peel and black tea flavors that build richness toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

ALEXANA

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Fennwood Vineyard 2016

93 points | \$65 | 149 cases made | Red

Polished and subtly brooding, with expressive raspberry, orange peel and black tea flavors that build richness toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

ARCHERY SUMMIT

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Archer's Edge Vineyard 2016

93 points | \$90 | 444 cases made | Red

Silky and seamless, with a polished, complex core and spirited raspberry, green tea and orange peel flavors. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

AYOUB

Pinot Noir McMinnville Brittan Vineyard 2016

93 points | \$55 | 165 cases made | Red

Refined and richly structured, with expressive raspberry, orange zest and dark brown spice flavors that build complexity on the long finish. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

DOMAINE SERENE

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Aspect 2015

93 points | \$125 | 400 cases made | Red

Tightly focused and well-bred, with refined cherry and rose petal aromas that open to harmonious strawberry, mineral and orange peel accents, finishing with fine tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

DOMAINE SERENE

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Two Barns Vineyard 2015

93 points | \$95 | 582 cases made | Red

Polished and expressive, with elegantly complex raspberry and pomegranate flavors accented by spiced tea and orange peel notes, finishing with refined tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

DOMAINE SERENE

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Winery Hill Vineyard 2015

93 points | \$100 | 350 cases made | Red

Precise and dynamic, with cherry and strawberry flavors accented by orange zest, clove and savory spice notes, finishing with fine tannins. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

LA CREMA

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2016

93 points | \$30 | 30,086 cases made | Red

Expressive and well-structured, with lively and layered raspberry, violet and flint notes, finishing with refined tannins. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

LAVINEA

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Nysa Vineyard 2016

93 points | \$65 | 308 cases made | Red

Expressive and refined, with violet and savory black tea aromas that open to sleekly layered cherry, river stone and spice flavors. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

LAVINEA

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Elton Vineyard 2016

93 points | \$75 | 263 cases made | Red

Dynamic, with a stately elegance, offering refined dark cherry, savory black tea and clove flavors that take on dimension and tension toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

LAVINEA

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Lazy River Vineyard 2016

93 points | \$55 | 263 cases made | Red

Distinctive yet harmonious, with expressive blueberry and cherry flavors accented by smoky spice, forest floor and river stone notes, finishing with fine tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

REX HILL

Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains 2016

93 points | \$45 | 378 cases made | Red

Silky, fresh and expressive, with violet and raspberry aromas leading to sleekly layered cherry and spiced cinnamon flavors that glide toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

REX HILL

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Reserve 2016

93 points | \$55 | 484 cases made | Red

Refined and elegantly focused, with harmonious raspberry, orange peel and black tea flavors that build structure and richness toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

ROSE & ARROW

Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains 1st Highland Close 2016

93 points | \$150 | 346 cases made | Red

Distinctive yet refined, offering expressive aromas of raspberry and spice, with a whiff of bacon fat that opens to complex and well-built cherry and sweet anise flavors. Drink now through 2025.—*T.F.*

STOLLER

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills 2016

93 points | \$30 | 10,300 cases made | Red

Sleek and spirited, with expressive cherry and pomegranate flavors accented by cinnamon and floral tea notes, finishing with refined tannins. Drink now through 2024.—*T.F.*

KEN WRIGHT

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Latchkey Vineyard 2016

93 points | \$63 | 474 cases made | Red

Impeccably structured and refined, featuring layered blueberry flavors laced with orange peel, river stone and savory spice details, finishing with fine tannins. Drink now through 2025.—*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.

MOCCAGATTA

Barbaresco Bric Balin 2015

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

Offers an intense display of cherry, kirsch, rose, sandalwood and spice aromas and flavors. The kaleidoscope of flavors is matched to a firm, racy structure. It all comes together on the never-ending, mineral-tinged aftertaste. Best from 2023 through 2043. From Italy.—*B.S.*

GIUSEPPE CORTESE

Barbaresco Rabajà Riserva 2011

96 points | \$100 | 30 cases imported | Red

Complex and perfumed, this red invites you in with aromas of rose, strawberry and sun-kissed hay, then keeps you riveted with flavors of tangy berry fruit, tobacco and iron. Harmonious even in its youth, expanding on the long aftertaste. Best from 2020 through 2043. From Italy.—*B.S.*

DONUM

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Single Vineyard Reserve 2016

95 points | \$100 | 292 cases made | Red

Very rich and well-crafted, with a savory undercurrent to the ripe dark plum, cherry and dried blackberry flavors, packed with Asian spice notes. Loamy details show on the finish, with chocolate mousse and cream accents. Best from 2020 through 2025. From California.—*K.M.*

GAJA

Barbaresco 2015

95 points | \$210 | 900 cases imported | Red

A combination of savory and fruit elements, this red reveals cherry, berry, eucalyptus, menthol, tar and mineral flavors. Firms up, with monolithic tannins locking this tight. Patience is required. Best from 2023 through 2042. From Italy.—*B.S.*

GAJA

Barbaresco Costa Russi 2015

95 points | \$540 | 165 cases imported | Red

Earthy base notes are the hallmarks of this rich, muscular red. Plum, cherry, spice, tobacco and mineral flavors mingle, and the refined tannins provide lift on the long aftertaste. Best from 2023 through 2042. From Italy.—*B.S.*

BRUNO ROCCA

Barbaresco Rabajà 2014

95 points | \$97 | 50 cases imported | Red

This is settling into a nice groove, with cherry and strawberry fruit still at the fore, while tobacco, soy and mineral elements begin to exert themselves. Offers fine energy and precision, ending in a long finish. Best from 2023 through 2040. From Italy.—*B.S.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 16 tasters and tasting coordinators in two offices. They work together to review more than 16,000 wines each year; more than 380,000 reviews are available in our online database. Together, our 11 tasting editors count more than 250 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