

# Wine Spectator Insider

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**FLAGSHIP NAPA CABERNET SAUVIGNON FROM THE 2013** vintage wows in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, sharing a bill with E. Guigal's legendary "La-La" wines from the Northern Rhône, as well as stunning Barolos and knockout Washington Syrahs. This is a report of wines that have most excited our editors in recent tastings.

Caymus, Colgin, Tor, Bryant Family, Screaming Eagle and other California Cab heavyweights show power and depth, while Côte-Rôtie stalwarts Michel & Stéphane Ogier and Maison Nicolas Perrin deliver ageworthy reds. Oddero and Giuseppe Rinaldi demonstrate the elegant side of Piedmont. A spectacular 11 wines here achieved classic scores of 95 points and higher, up to 98 points. Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.

## CALIFORNIA

### COLGIN

Syrah Napa Valley IX Estate 2013

**95 points | \$315 | 480 cases made | Red**

Deep and powerfully complex, with an enticingly supple texture. Aromas of blueberry, chunky chocolate and smoky herb combine with layered flavors of huckleberry, cracked pepper and lico-rice, lingering toward big but plush tannins. Drink now through 2028.—*T.F.*

### TOR

Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Tierra Roja Vineyard 2013

**95 points | \$150 | 225 cases made | Red**

Offers a distinctive core of rich dark cherry flavors, with a twinge of sour cherry candy amid the dense mix of red and dark fruit. The tannins are tight and gripping, holding on through the long, deep finish. Best from 2020 through 2035.—*J.L.*

### BRYANT FAMILY

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2013

**94 points | \$500 | 700 cases made | Red**

A bold, dense, expressive style that packs a punch, while also exhibiting grace and balance. The core flavors of blackberry, fresh-turned earth, licorice and tobacco show harmony. Ends long and tannic. Best to cellar this. Best from 2020 through 2032.—*J.L.*

### COLGIN

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

Tychson Hill Vineyard 2013

**94 points | \$550 | 425 cases made | Red**

Complex, with a range of flavor extending from espresso to mocha to smoky, toasty oak, adding depth and dimension to the firm core of chocolate-laced blackberry and wild berry. Ends with firm, ripe tannins and excellent length. Best from 2020 through 2033.—*J.L.*

### DAKOTA SHY

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2014

**94 points | \$95 | 800 cases made | Red**

Showcases Cabernet in a harmonious, graceful pose. Though big and rich, this is deftly balanced and easy to approach, with tiers of spicy black licorice, red and dark berry, mocha, mineral, sage and floral notes. Shows depth and dimension overall. Drink now through 2032.—*J.L.*

### COLGIN

Cariad Napa Valley 2013

**93 points | \$550 | 900 cases made | Red**

Exhibits a tight bundle of rich, extracted dark berry, mocha, lico-rice, savory herb and underbrush flavors, with accents of smoky oak. A tour de force that is best served after a long decant or some cellar time. The finish is deep and extracted. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2020 through 2032.—*J.L.*

## ODETTE

**Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Reserve 2013**  
**93 points | \$300 | 450 cases made | Red**

Gorgeous, pure, rich and layered, offering tiers of blackberry and wild berry flavors. Exhibits floral and spicy notes, with hazelnut-scented oak. Ends with a long, potent finish, remaining graceful and refined. Drink now through 2030.—*J.L.*

## JOSEPH PHELPS

**Insignia Napa Valley 2013**  
**93 points | \$250 | 12,300 cases made | Red**

Rich and full-bodied, but exhibiting the lift of a brighter red. The dark berry flavors give this an elegant mouthfeel and ease the tannic strength. Tempting now but worth cellaring. Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2018 through 2032.—*J.L.*

## SCREAMING EAGLE

**Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2013**  
**93 points | \$850 | 800 cases made | Red**

Pure and focused, with a tight, aromatic mix of loamy earth, graphite, lead pencil, dark berry and currant flavors. Slow to unfold, this shows a pleasing tannic grip. The gravelly berry flavors glide along on the finish. Best from 2020 through 2032.—*J.L.*

# FRANCE

## Côte-Rôtie

### E. GUIGAL

**Côte-Rôtie Château d'Ampuis 2012**  
**95 points | \$175 | 400 cases imported | Red**

This is lavishly toasted, with a frame of mocha, ganache and black tea notes, matched to a gorgeous core of raspberry pâte de fruit, blackberry puree and plum sauce flavors. Exhibits a long, alluring, polished feel through the finish. This has a ways to go before opening up. Best from 2018 through 2030.—*J.M.*

### MICHEL & STÉPHANE OGIER

**Côte-Rôtie La Belle Hélène 2012**  
**95 points | \$605 | 15 cases imported | Red**

Rock-solid, with a dark, winery core of black currant and blackberry fruit carried by a lively, brambly structure. Lots of anise and sweet tobacco fill in on the finish, where the fruit plays out along with a tug of sweet earth. Wins on both power and seduction. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*J.M.*

### MICHEL & STÉPHANE OGIER

**Côte-Rôtie Lancement 2012**  
**95 points | \$505 | 5 cases imported | Red**

Very alluring, with a core of cherry, red currant and damson plum fruit inlaid with singed alder notes that help extend the finish. Sanguine, iron and olive accents hang in the background. This has an old-school touch and beautiful integration throughout. Drink now through 2027.—*J.M.*

## MAISON NICOLAS PERRIN

**Côte-Rôtie 2013**  
**94 points | \$73 | 700 cases made | Red**

This has ample grip for the vintage, with a streak of warm cast iron notes driving through the core of steeped cherry, currant and plum fruit. Lightly singed alder details underscore the finish, with a sanguine hint echoing at the end. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*J.M.*

## FERRATON PÈRE & FILS

**Côte-Rôtie Lieu-Dit Montmain 2014**  
**93 points | \$90 | 20 cases imported | Red**

Dark and winery, with a serious core of plum paste, cherry preserves and cassis that is tightly coiled. Loads of black tea and sweet tobacco details frame the finish, with an alluring singed bay accent weaving in at the very end. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*J.M.*

## MICHEL & STÉPHANE OGIER

**Côte-Rôtie Réserve 2013**  
**93 points | \$125 | 100 cases imported | Red**

Very lively, with bramble-edged plum, currant and blackberry fruit pumping along, while lively bay, dark olive and singed juniper notes fill in the background. Maintains excellent energy through the finish. Should unwind nicely. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*J.M.*

## GILLES BARGE

**Côte-Rôtie Cuvée du Plessy 2013**  
**92 points | \$55 | 1,600 cases made | Red**

The dark fruit shows a hint of lushness at the core, though the edges are taut and racy. Iron and singed alder hints guide the dark plum and blackberry fruit. Shows a lovely backdrop of bay and sanguine notes. Needs a touch of cellaring to open up fully. Best from 2018 through 2025.—*J.M.*

## LOUIS & CHERRY BARRUOL

**Côte-Rôtie La Viallière 2014**  
**92 points | \$75 | 37 cases imported | Red**

This peppery red shows sage and bay leaf notes streaking through the bitter plum and crushed cherry fruit. The tight-grained finish has judicious toast, showing a hint of cocoa, but stays pure overall as an iron accent lingers. Best from 2017 through 2024.—*J.M.*

## LOUIS & CHERRY BARRUOL

**Côte-Rôtie Nève 2014**  
**92 points | \$75 | 37 cases imported | Red**

Has a bright peppery note up front, followed by dried sage and savory accents that steadily give way to bitter cherry and damson plum fruit flavors. Best from 2018 through 2028.—*J.M.*

## R. ROSTAING

**Côte-Rôtie Ampodium 2013**  
**92 points | \$85 | 90 cases imported | Red**

A lively, herb-accented style, with rosemary, savory and bay leading the way, followed by a lightly mulled core of raspberry and blackberry fruit. Best from 2017 through 2027.—*J.M.*

## JEAN-MICHEL STEPHAN

Côte-Rôtie 2014

**92 points | \$75 | 100 cases imported | Red**

Enticing, with lightly singed anise and juniper notes leading the way for a core of raspberry and damson plum fruit. The long, iron-edged finish has cut and length. Drink now through 2024.—*J.M.*

## ITALY

### GIUSEPPE RINALDI

Barolo Brunate 2012

**94 points | \$150 | 200 cases imported | Red**

A mix of sour cherry, raspberry, spice and tobacco leaf flavors highlights this light-footed, silky red. Firmly structured, with dusty tannins on the lingering finish. Best from 2018 through 2035.—*B.S.*

### CASCINA ADELAIDE

Barolo Per Elen Riserva 2010

**93 points | \$150 | 50 cases imported | Red**

Concentrated, with a dense matrix underlying the cherry, strawberry, licorice and spice flavors. Shows tension through the spice and tobacco-accented finish. Best from 2019 through 2035.—*B.S.*

### RENATO CORINO

Barolo Arborina 2012

**93 points | \$59 | 1,000 cases imported | Red**

Textbook aromas and flavors of rose, cherry and tar highlight this elegant, linear red. Mineral and spice accents add complexity, with a long, detailed aftertaste. Best from 2018 through 2032.—*B.S.*

### GIANNI GAGLIARDO

Barolo Preve 2012

**93 points | \$159 | 33 cases imported | Red**

A polished style, with cherry, plum, floral and spice flavors meshing with the smooth texture. The firm structure matches well and the finish is long and stony. Best from 2018 through 2033.—*B.S.*

### ARMANDO PARUSSO

Barolo Bussia 2012

**93 points | \$99 | 150 cases imported | Red**

An impressive Barolo, this features enticing aromas and flavors of cherry, currant, tar, eucalyptus and iron. Firm, yet rangy and complex, with a long finish. Best from 2019 through 2033.—*B.S.*

### ARMANDO PARUSSO

Barolo Le Coste di Monforte 2012

**93 points | \$90 | 80 cases imported | Red**

A mix of eucalyptus, wild herb, cherry and licorice flavors is tinged with an exotic note of coconut. Intense and elegant, with a solid underlying structure. Best from 2019 through 2035.—*B.S.*

### ARMANDO PARUSSO

Barolo Mariondino 2012

**93 points | \$63 | 100 cases imported | Red**

Eucalyptus, menthol, fresh-cut hay and cherry flavors signal this muscular Barolo. Finishes on the astringent side, yet shows plenty of personality. Best from 2020 through 2036.—*B.S.*

## PECCHENINO

Barolo Bussia 2012

**93 points | \$77 | 350 cases made | Red**

An alluring, fruity style, boasting black cherry, raspberry and menthol flavors, backed by chalky tannins. Elegant, this loses some rusticity with air on the finish. Best from 2018 through 2032.—*B.S.*

## WASHINGTON

### MAISON BLEUE

Syrah Walla Walla Valley Voyageur

Yellow Jacket Vineyard 2013

**94 points | \$40 | 196 cases made | Red**

Broad, with a glassy texture underneath a sprinkling of powdery tannins. A beam of black plum, blackberry, meaty and floral flavors extends into a long finish. Drink now through 2023.—*H.S.*

### SAVIAH

Syrah Walla Walla Valley The Funk 2013

**94 points | \$60 | 150 cases made | Red**

Rich, with powerful flavors of plum, currant and meat floating effortlessly through a cloud of velvety tannins and lingering enticingly on the extra-long finish. Drink now through 2023.—*H.S.*

### SPARKMAN

Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Holler 2013

**94 points | \$32 | 912 cases made | Red**

Dense, with a tangy edge to the dark plum and currant flavors, hinting at stony mineral and dusky spice as the finish persists against fine tannins. Best from 2018 through 2023.—*H.S.*

### EFESE

Syrah Yakima Valley Jolie Bouche Boushey Vineyard 2013

**93 points | \$44 | 470 cases made | Red**

Broad, open-textured and expressive, packed with plum, blackberry and sage flavors, hinting at saffras and black olive notes as the finish lingers gracefully. Drink now through 2021.—*H.S.*

### NORTH BY NORTHWEST

Syrah Walla Walla Valley NXNW 2013

**93 points | \$40 | 1,000 cases made | Red**

Focused, with rich pomegranate, red plum and blackberry flavors floating over superfine tannins. The elements move weightlessly through the finish. Drink now through 2023.—*H.S.*

### TRUST CELLARS

Syrah Walla Walla Valley 2013

**93 points | \$30 | 300 cases made | Red**

Rich and complex, layering the blueberry and dark plum flavors with glints of sage, bay leaf and wildflower. Offers nubby tannins and meaty accents. Best from 2018 through 2023.—*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 wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

## E. GUIGAL

Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2012

**98 points | \$25 | 60 cases imported | Red**

Intense, with a serious iron spine that drives from start to finish, while the core of dark currant, bitter plum and black cherry fruit is held in reserve. The grippy and mineral-driven finish sports loads of tobacco, warm iron and dark earth notes, while displaying terrific cut and drive. A formidable wine. Best from 2020 through 2040. *From France.—J.M.*

## E. GUIGAL

Côte-Rôtie La Turque 2012

**97 points | \$25 | 60 cases imported | Red**

Features warm fig bread and ganache notes out front, followed by densely layered blackberry, plum and black currant reduction flavors. Ganache details echo through the finish, along with Turkish coffee and smoldering alder hints. A large-scale wine that should cruise in the cellar. Best from 2020 through 2040. *From France.—J.M.*

## E. GUIGAL

Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2012

**96 points | \$25 | 60 cases imported | Red**

This has a brooding feel, with layers of warm tobacco leaf, roasted alder and juniper, and sweet tapenade leading the way, backed by a dense core of macerated plum, black currant and raspberry fruit. The long, smoldering finish shows terrific latent grip. Best from 2018 through 2030. *From France.—J.M.*

## CAYMUS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Special Selection 2013

**95 points | \$160 | 21,249 cases made | Red**

Zeroes in on a rich, hedonistic core of wild berry, blackberry, plum and currant, with a graceful, elegant mouthfeel and supple, caressing tannins leading to a long, powerful and refined aftertaste that keeps reverberating while maintaining a strong personality. Drink now through 2030. *From California.—J.L.*

## ODDERO

Barolo Bussia Vigna Mondoca Riserva 2010

**95 points | \$110 | 100 cases imported | Red**

Beginning to turn the corner, this red exhibits fragrant aromas of cherry, leather, mushroom and spice. Smooth and full of ripe fruit, with a firm structure for support. Still needs some time, but already shows complexity and harmony. Best from 2018 through 2035. *From Italy.—B.S.*

## TOR

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer

To Kalon 2013

**95 points | \$175 | 600 cases made | Red**

Showing wonderful complexity in aroma and flavor, this is rich and layered, with tiers of spicy oak, vivid wild and dark berry, currant and plum flavors, held together by refreshing acidity and firm, fine-grained tannins. The finish sails on and on. Drink now through 2032. *From California.—J.L.*

## WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

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*Wine Spectator's* tasting staff includes 16 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 nine 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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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2001. Tasting beat: California

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2012. Tasting beat: France

#### 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