

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

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CALIFORNIA ZINFANDEL, NORTHERN RHÔNE AND MORE UP TO 96 POINTS: Turley delivers stellar Zinfandels with a collection of their single-vineyard cuvées from Napa, Sonoma, Paso Robles and more. Cornas and Condrieu enjoy the spotlight, led by stars like Les Vins de Vienne (pictured) and François Villard. Riesling from Austria proves the ageworthiness of the category, and high-end Italian reds show rich, opulent fruit. The large majority of these wines cost under \$100, including a 94-pointer for just \$38. *Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.*



Courtesy of Les Vins de Vienne

AUSTRIA Riesling

NIGL

Riesling Kremstal Ried Goldberg 2017
94 points | \$84 | 50 cases imported | White

Soft-spoken up front, this needs some time to unravel, with hints of lavender and orchard blossom. Stone fruit notes emerge midpalate, intermingled with sea salt, coriander and tarragon, all tied to a vivid structure. Very pure and precise, but some bottle age will help reveal this wine's facets even more. Best from 2021 through 2031.—A.Z.

PRAGER

Riesling Smaragd Wachau Ried Klaus 2017
94 points | \$80 | 40 cases imported | White

A complex, beautifully crafted version that combines power and elegance. The palate features flavors of apricot and white chocolate, while elderflower and bergamot details glide along the edges. The finish is well-executed, presenting mouthwatering acidity and mineral notes. Best from 2020 through 2031.—A.Z.

ALZINGER

Riesling Smaragd Wachau Ried Loibenberg 2017
93 points | \$56 | 150 cases imported | White

Ripe, yet elegant and racy, with a floral essence and sprinkles of coriander seed to the clementine and blood orange flavors and hints of white chocolate. Solidly built, with powerful acidity that offsets the broad finish. Should develop nicely in several years. Best from 2021 through 2029.—A.Z.

ALZINGER

Riesling Smaragd Wachau Ried Steinertal 2017
93 points | \$65 | 144 cases imported | White

A tropical style, exhibiting passion fruit, persimmon and ground ginger flavors before the firm structure of mouthwatering acidity and minerality takes over, leaving a bone-dry impression. Notes of white pepper emerge on the long finish. This should shine in several years. Best from 2021 through 2030.—A.Z.

SCHLOSS GOBELSBURG

Ried Heiligenstein Kamptal 2017
93 points | \$65 | 75 cases imported | White

An effusive white, filled with Asian spice details and plush notes of ripe pear and nectarine. Open-textured and beautifully crafted, with a rich tapestry of flavors and aromas. Polished and impressive on the finish, with an echoing aftertaste of cream and anise. Riesling. Drink now through 2028.—A.Z.

HIEDLER

Riesling Kamptal Maximum Reserve 2016
93 points | \$51 | 50 cases imported | White

A floral style, with prominent notes of saffron and chamomile that surround the peach, tangerine and gooseberry flavors. Shows a little bit of thickness midpalate, offset by piercing acidity that cuts through, delivering a marathon finish. Best from 2021 through 2031.—A.Z.

HUBER

Riesling Traisental Ried Berg Reserve 2017
93 points | \$70 | 100 cases imported | White

Nicely woven, with notes of white pepper, coriander seed and star anise framing the core of peach and grapefruit flavors. Beautifully textured and layered, revealing new elements sip after sip. Features a persistent, savory mineral-infused finish. Drink now through 2027.—A.Z.

NIGL

Riesling Kremstal Ried Pellingen Privat 2016
93 points | \$65 | 117 cases imported | White

This glides gracefully across the palate, with kumquat, elderberry and candied ginger notes. Very fine, with acidity that delivers laserlike precision, acting as both the backbone and the muscle. Drink now through 2027.—A.Z.

BERNHARD OTT

Wagram Ried Kirchthal 2017
93 points | \$51 | 66 cases imported | White

A gorgeous, fruit-forward white, with notes of peach, quince blossom and blood orange mingling in the center, while savory mineral accents add another dimension. Very harmonious, with lively acidity powering through, delivering a lengthy finish. Riesling. Drink now through 2028.—A.Z.

RUDI PICHLER

Riesling Smaragd Wachau Ried Achleithen 2017
93 points | \$120 | 14 cases imported | White

Creamy and rich, with a velvety texture and notes of violet underpinning the core of Meyer lemon, white mulberry and salted almond. Floral details emerge midpalate, adding to the charm. The acidity pierces through, delivering a surprisingly elegant feel on the long finish. Best from 2020 through 2028.—A.Z.

RUDI PICHLER

Riesling Smaragd Wachau Ried Kirchweg 2017
93 points | \$75 | 13 cases imported | White

A floral version, with aromas and flavors of lavender and jasmine framing the core of ruby grapefruit, white raspberry and cardamom. Elegant, but flavorful and complex, leaving a long, citrusy impression on the well-defined finish. Drink now through 2027.—A.Z.

CALIFORNIA

Zinfandel

TURLEY

Zinfandel Paso Robles Ueberroth Vineyard 2016
94 points | \$48 | 1,075 cases made | Red

Powerfully built and overflowing with personality, offering jammy blackberry, exotic fruitcake spices and flashy licorice flavors that build richness toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2025.—T.F.

TURLEY

Zinfandel Sonoma County Zampatti Vineyard 2016
94 points | \$38 | 125 cases made | Red

Vibrant and expressive, with tart cherry and red plum flavors laced with smoky sage and cracked pepper notes that take on richness on the finish. Drink now through 2025.—T.F.

TURLEY

Zinfandel Contra Costa County Salvador Vineyard 2016
93 points | \$38 | 575 cases made | Red

Appealingly rustic, yet vibrant and focused, with wild berry, dried sage and green peppercorn flavors that finish with zesty tannins. Drink now through 2025.—T.F.

TURLEY

Zinfandel Paso Robles Pesenti Vineyard 2016
93 points | \$38 | 2,025 cases made | Red

Structured and focused, but retains a rich briary quality, with black cherry, smoky bacon and cracked pepper flavors that build intensity toward broad-shouldered tannins. Drink now through 2025.—T.F.

DRY CREEK

Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley DCV2 Four Clones Vineyard Single Vineyard Series 2016
92 points | \$42 | 600 cases made | Red

Distinctive and full of personality, with an old-school sense of wild briar paired with precision and structure, offering black cherry, underbrush and white pepper flavors. Best after 2019.—T.F.

DRY CREEK

Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley DCV7 Wallace Ranch Single Vineyard Series 2016
92 points | \$42 | 320 cases made | Red

Plump and expressive, with a structured, sturdy core wrapped in layered cherry and raspberry flavors, accented by licorice, toasted sage and green peppercorn notes. Drink now through 2026.—T.F.

PEDRONCELLI

Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Courage Faloni Vineyard 2016
92 points | \$32 | 600 cases made | Red

A zesty, vibrant red, with briary dark berry, licorice and bitter chocolate flavors that build richness toward lively tannins. Drink now through 2025.—T.F.

WONDERMENT

Zinfandel Kelsey Bench-Lake County Burton Ranch Vineyard Old Vine 2016
92 points | \$35 | 311 cases made | Red

Lively and sleek, with floral raspberry, bay leaf and pepper flavors that glide toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2025.—T.F.

FRANCE

Northern Rhône

ALAIN VOGÉ

Cornas Les Vieilles Vignes 2016

95 points | \$85 | 220 cases imported | Red

This offers a mix of red and black cherry paste flavors, infused with a range of bay leaf, savory, tobacco, olive and chalk notes. Shows a grippy feel through the finish, with the chalky minerality driving through. Best from 2022 through 2038.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE COURBIS

Cornas La Sabarotte 2016

94 points | \$95 | 40 cases imported | Red

Alluring, with a gilding of modern-style mocha and bacon-accented toast that melds perfectly into the core of gently steeped plum and blackberry fruit, while light black olive, anise and juniper notes add range and texture through the finish. Best from 2021 through 2036.—*J.M.*

LES VINS DE VIENNE

Cornas Lieu-Dit St.-Pierre 2016

94 points | \$80 | 50 cases imported | Red

Very racy and pure, despite a somewhat hefty core of steeped plum and black currant fruit, as racy iron and chalk notes provide the foil. The backdrop of rosemary, olive, violet and white pepper details is lovely. Best from 2022 through 2038.—*J.M.*

FRANÇOIS VILLARD

Condrieu Le Grand Vallon 2017

94 points | \$58 | 80 cases imported | White

This sports juicy and ripe peach, apricot and melon flavors, but has the cut and freshness to carry it off, as heather, verbena and green almond notes streak through. Features length and excellent focus for a wine with such a showy persona. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

ALAIN VOGÉ

Cornas Les Chailles 2016

94 points | \$55 | 120 cases imported | Red

A bright, piercing style, with a beam of violet and iron racing forth, backed by bitter cherry and red currant coulis flavors. The finish is flecked with olive, chalk and savory details while staying very focused and pure. Best from 2021 through 2036.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE COURBIS

Cornas Les Eygats 2016

93 points | \$75 | 50 cases imported | Red

A toasty frame gives this Cornas a modern feel by adding a mocha note to a mix of warmed plum and boysenberry compote flavors. Light cast iron and tar aspects line the finish, keeping this grounded while the alluring fruit flows through. Best from 2021 through 2033.—*J.M.*

LES VINS DE VIENNE

Cornas Les Barcillants 2016

93 points | \$72 | 150 cases imported | Red

Solidly built, with a core of steeped fig and blackberry fruit framed by smoldering tobacco, dark olive and tar notes. Lots of cast iron and bramble details show on the finish, which has buried acidity to allow all the pieces to meld nicely in the cellar. Best from 2022 through 2038.—*J.M.*

LES VINS DE VIENNE

St.-Péray Lieu-Dit Les Faures 2016

93 points | \$54 | 50 cases imported | White

Shows a slightly mature hint, with warm buttered brioche and hazelnut notes guiding the core of creamed pear and yellow apple fruit along. The brioche accent hangs on the finish along with a pretty echo of verbena. Drink now through 2021.—*J.M.*

FRANÇOIS VILLARD

Condrieu Les Terrasses du Palat 2017

93 points | \$50 | 100 cases imported | White

Showy and engaging, with mouthfilling yellow apple, green melon, star fruit and peach flavors bouncing through, while light heather and almond notes gently line the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*J.M.*

ITALY

Amarone della Valpolicella

TOMMASO BUSSOLA

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Vigneto Alto TB 2009

94 points | \$195 | 300 cases made | Red

A mouthwatering, medium- to full-bodied red, offering a rich and expressive range of black raspberry preserve, dried fig, anise and wild sage flavors, dressing the taut, finely knit tannins. Well-spiced and long, with ripe fruit, mineral and herb notes echoing on the finish. Drink now through 2030.—*A.N.*

ALLEGRINI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2014

93 points | \$85 | 4,100 cases imported | Red

A fresh, creamy, medium- to full-bodied red, with fine, supple tannins layered with flavors of crushed black raspberry, fig cake and spiced orange, offering a subtle, savory underpinning of smoky mineral and tobacco that lingers on the finish. Long and elegant. Drink now through 2029.—*A.N.*

BRIGALDARA

Amarone della Valpolicella Riserva 2011

93 points | \$225 | 75 cases imported | Red

This fresh, medium- to full-bodied red shows a range of savory and sweet notes, with tarry mineral, cured tobacco, cherry coulis and dried strawberry fruit flavors. An expressive skein of spice unravels through to the firm and chewy finish. Best from 2020 through 2029.—*A.N.*

MARCHESI FUMANELLI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Octavius Riserva 2010

93 points | \$150 | 152 cases imported | Red

This fresh, full-bodied red exudes ripe and dried fruit notes and flavors of baked currant, fig cake, spiced citrus peel and dried sage, tightly meshed with firm tannins and a smoky underpinning. Appealing now, but should open nicely with aging or decanting. Best from 2021 through 2031.—*A.N.*

ZENATO

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Sergio Zenato Riserva 2012

93 points | \$140 | 100 cases imported | Red

A rich, ripe version, exuding date and dried cherry fruit, floral and dusty thyme accents, and spiced citrus peel and incense-laced smoke notes. Full-bodied and fresh, textured by silky tannins that emerge on the lasting finish. Drink now through 2029.—*A.N.*

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.

LES VINS DE VIENNE

Condrieu La Chambée 2017

96 points | \$85 | 250 cases imported | White

A large-scaled version, with dense and creamy layers of plantain, white peach, yellow apple and green melon flavors, backed by a kiss of warm brioche and a flash of verbena on the very long finish. Drink now through 2022. From France.—*J.M.*

ALZINGER

Riesling Smaragd Wachau Ried Hollerin 2017

95 points | \$51 | 147 cases imported | White

Elegant yet richly flavored, with white cherry, blood orange and ripe melon notes. Very creamy midpalate, adding to the structure and texture, offering complexity and a broad, echoing finish of allspice, white chocolate and fleur de sel accents. This is all about texture and minerality for now, so give it some time. Best from 2021 through 2033. From Austria.—*A.Z.*

DELAS

Cornas Chante-Perdrix 2015

95 points | \$55 | 298 cases imported | Red

Offers a delicious core of gently mulled blueberry, blackberry and black currant fruit that is matched by a mix of floral, mineral and singed spice notes throughout. The long chalky spine is well-buried on the finish, letting all the elements play out suavely through the finish. Best from 2021 through 2036. From France.—*J.M.*

PRAGER

Riesling Smaragd Wachau Wachstum Bodenstein 2017

95 points | \$80 | 40 cases imported | White

Multidimensional, with one layer emerging after another. A wave of white peach and roasted pineapple flavors leads the way to the spice and chamomile notes, followed by an intense saltiness from minerality. All the elements are connected by a vivid structure that gives this focus. Seamless from start to finish, this imparts lots of pleasure now, but give it a few more years. Best from 2020 through 2033. From Austria.—*A.Z.*

TURLEY

Zinfandel Napa Valley Hayne Vineyard 2016

95 points | \$75 | 650 cases made | Red

A brooding, complex core is wrapped in rich and briary flavors, mixing blackberry and red berry notes with accents of orange zest, baking spices and black licorice. Drink now through 2026. From California.—*T.F.*

FRANÇOIS VILLARD

Condrieu DePoncins 2017

95 points | \$62 | 75 cases imported | White

A plump and creamy style, with alluring yellow apple, Cavaillon melon, pear and peach flavors all gliding through, backed by hints of warm brioche and almond cream. Quite alluring in the end. Drink now through 2021. From France.—*J.M.*

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 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