

# Wine Spectator Insider

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**THIS** week's *Wine Spectator Insider* showcases wines from Australia, California, Oregon and Châteauneuf-du-Pape, in France's Southern Rhône Valley. James Laube tastes four Sonoma Coast wines made by Helen Turley for Marcassin's 2005 vintage. Two of her single-vineyard Pinot Noir bottlings received classic ratings; you'll find them among the Hot Wines, on page 4.

Harvey Steiman reviews 14 Oregon Pinot Noirs from Willamette Valley, including one that earns 95 points. Steiman also highlights a selection of outstanding reds, along with one white and one dessert wine, from the Land Down Under. Finally this week, James Molesworth offers tasting notes on the Grenache-based reds of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, all from the classic-rated 2007 vintage.

## Australia

### BROKENWOOD

Sémillon Hunter Valley ILR Reserve 2005

**92 points | \$48 | 75 cases imported | White**

Brimming with personality, this piles up tiers of pear, green apple, grass and lanolin aromas and flavors onto a light, airy frame, the finish sailing along for a long time. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

### 3 RINGS

Shiraz Barossa Valley Reserve 2005

**91 points | \$45 | 500 cases made | Red**

Supple, fleshy and generous with its sweet blackberry, espresso and dark chocolate flavors, focused into a long and expressive finish. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

### BERRYS BRIDGE

Shiraz Pyrenees 2005

**91 points | \$49 | 500 cases imported | Red**

Crisp in texture, deftly balanced to deliver its white pepper-accented blueberry and roasted meat flavors on a taut frame, the finish hovering beautifully over refined tannins. Best from 2012 through 2020.—*H.S.*

### D'ARENBERG

Chardonnay-Sémillon Adelaide Hills The Noble

Prankster 2008

**91 points | \$20/375ml | 200 cases imported | Dessert**

The golden color, sweet balance and creamy honeyed pear, vanilla and spice aromas and flavors are reminiscent of a fine Sauternes. The finish rolls on impressively. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

### MARQUEE

Shiraz McLaren Vale Signature 2007

**91 points | \$20 | 314 cases imported | Red**

A ripe, fleshy style, but not heavy at all, with rich currant, plum and blueberry fruit that sails over a bed of fine tannins and picks up licorice, smoke and meat notes on the long finish. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

### SONS OF EDEN

Shiraz-Viognier Barossa Valley Zephyrus 2007

**91 points | \$35 | 220 cases made | Red**

Ripe and distinctive in flavor, but not weighty, a harmonious mouthful of plum, currant, exotic spice and licorice flavors that persist into a refined finish. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

### DE BORTOLI

Sémillon New South Wales Noble One Botrytis 2007

**90 points | \$32/375ml | 500 cases imported | Dessert**

Very sweet and rich, a spicy overlay adding a refreshing edge to the ripe pear, spice and cream aromas and flavors, finishing with intensity. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

## GLAETZER

Shiraz-Grenache Barossa Valley Wallace 2008  
**90 points | \$25 | 1,500 cases imported | Red**

This refreshing, exuberant style trumpets its cherry, rhubarb and raspberry fruit, but tempers it with fine tannins and deft balance of acidity, finishing with harmony. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

# California

## MARCASSIN

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Marcassin Vineyard 2005  
**94 points | \$125 | 300 cases made | Red**

Fresh floral and berry aromas are firm, ripe, intense and delicate on the palate, understated rather than overstated, with taut wild berry, mineral, sage and underbrush and finishing with a persistent mix of mineral and berry. Drink now through 2015.—*J.L.*

## MARCASSIN

Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Marcassin Vineyard 2005  
**91 points | \$125 | 275 cases made | White**

Complex aromas of fresh-cut flowers, melon, beeswax and ripe pear, full-bodied and layered, fleshy and elegant in texture, delicate and subtle. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*

# France

## Rhône

## DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Secrète Réserve 2007  
**94 points | \$190 | 291 cases made | Red**

Big, lush and mouthfilling, but with excellent definition, thanks to a nice graphite edge that holds the core of anise, roasted plum, hoisin sauce and macerated black currant fruit together. The long, powerful finish lets bittersweet cocoa and violet notes chime in. Syrah and Grenache. Best from 2012 through 2025.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cornelia Constanza 2007  
**93 points | \$120 | 291 cases made | Red**

Rich and velvety, with a lovely mix of red and black fruits—currant, blackberry, cherry—laced with ample anise, fruitcake and incense notes. The anise edge helps drive the lengthy, dark finish. Grenache. Best from 2011 through 2023.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE DU BANNERET

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2007  
**92 points | \$52 | 250 cases imported | Red**

Packed but perfumy, with lovely mesquite, warm fig sauce and mulled spice aromatics giving way to sandalwood-framed flavors of raspberry, red currant and fruitcake. The long, rich finish lets tobacco and chestnut notes chime in. There's lots of range to this. The best vintage yet for this domaine. Drink now through 2025.—*J.M.*

## JEAN DEYDIER & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Clefs d'Or Sélection 2007  
**92 points | \$60 | 500 cases made | Red**

This is dark and brooding, with lots of coffee, maduro tobacco and roasted chestnut aromas followed by a slightly burly palate loaded with macerated black currant, fig paste and tar. Smoky and broad finish, with a charcoal-tinged cut. Offers modern power with throwback character. Best from 2012 through 2025.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Barberini 2007  
**92 points | \$80 | 491 cases made | Red**

Shows the forward, ripe profile of the vintage, with delicious plum, violet, black licorice and fig notes backed by velvety texture and lots of fruitcake and spice on the finish. Lush and flattering. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2023.—*J.M.*

## CHANTE CIGALE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2007  
**91 points | \$65 | 500 cases imported | Red**

Inviting, with dark coffee and tobacco aromas giving way to a velvety feel, which lets the raspberry, blackberry and boysenberry flavors glide along, laced with hints of black tea and mineral. The fruit hangs on nicely through the long finish. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE DU GALET DES PAPES

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2007  
**91 points | \$45 | 500 cases imported | Red**

Light-bodied for the vintage, with perfumy sandalwood, red cherry, plum and black tea notes that glide along through the silky finish. Not big, but with solid length and balance. This also puts on weight nicely as it airs. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2007  
**91 points | \$50 | 9,500 cases made | Red**

Shows the rich, fleshy profile of the vintage, with very polished plum, fig and raspberry ganache notes, layered with sweet spice and well-integrated toast. This has a powerful, fruit- and licorice-driven finish. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre.— *Drink now through 2020.*

## VIGNOBLES JÉRÔME QUIOT

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Combes d'Arnevel 2007  
**91 points | \$37 | 300 cases imported | Red**

A fresh, bright style, with nice cut for the vintage, as red currant, raspberry and damson plum flavors race along violet, incense and mineral notes. This has a very stylish, polished finish. Drink now through 2020.—*J.M.*

## CHANTE CIGALE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2007  
**90 points | \$45 | 1,400 cases imported | Red**

Rich but stylish, with a lovely silky feel and lots of perfumy espresso, incense, blackberry and mulled currant notes. Nice dark fruit and spice hangs on through the modestly toasty finish. Drink now through 2018.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE DU GALET DES PAPES

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition 2007

**90 points | \$40 | 600 cases imported | Red**

A racy style, with lots of floral, red licorice and red currant fruit laced with hints of spice cake and fruitcake. Very juicy and driven through the finish, which picks up hints of black tea and raspberry. Drink now through 2023.—*J.M.*

## CHÂTEAU MONT-REDON

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2007

**90 points | \$45 | 2,000 cases imported | Red**

This has a core of dark plum and fig fruit, but it's pushed by a slightly high-toned black cherry and floral note, with hints of anise and black licorice checking in on the finish. Tangy for the vintage. Drink now through 2019.—*J.M.*

# Oregon

## PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Shea Vineyard 2008

**94 points | \$55 | 325 cases made | Red**

Ripe, round and complex, delivering black cherry, currant and plum flavors layered with flashes of wet granite, slate and white pepper, which add extra sparkle on the intense, but not dense, structure. Seductive stuff. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

## PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Bella Vida Vineyard 2008

**93 points | \$55 | 160 cases made | Red**

Smooth and velvety, light in texture and vibrant with red berry, pomegranate, mineral and white pepper flavors, lingering effectively on the focused finish. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

## PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Zena Crown Vineyard 2008

**93 points | \$55 | 75 cases made | Red**

Lithe in texture, vivid in flavor, delivering a whoosh of cherry, blackberry, smoke and wet earth character on a light, sleek frame. The finish sails on nicely. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

## ET FILLE

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Kalita Vineyard 2008

**92 points | \$38 | 206 cases made | Red**

Light in texture, intense in flavor, with a candied edge to the raspberry, apricot and orange peel notes that sail through the long and vivid finish. Tannins don't get in the way. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

## PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Dussin Vineyard 2008

**92 points | \$60 | 535 cases made | Red**

Broad and ripe, featuring dark berry and smoky, mineral flavors that compete for attention on a light and airy frame. Firm tannins mark this for the cellar, but the generosity of flavor should carry it well. Best from 2012 through 2018.—*H.S.*

## PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Élevée Vineyard 2008

**92 points | \$55 | 150 cases made | Red**

Light on its feet, focused in flavor, with floral and mineral overtones to the dark berry flavors, finishing with distinctively pebbly character and expressive length. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

## PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2008

**91 points | \$45 | 4,500 cases made | Red**

Firm in texture, but light on its feet, offering a cherry glow to the flavor profile against crisp tannins. This all finishes with impressive persistence. Best from 2012 through 2016.—*H.S.*

## SOTER

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Mineral Springs Ranch 2007

**91 points | \$48 | 1,300 cases made | Red**

Fleshier than most 2007s. Not heavy, but shows a density that lifts the dark currant and plum fruit. Finishes with firm tannins that fade away, allowing the flavors to shine. Plays out with cream, nutmeg and floral notes. Drink now through 2013.—*H.S.*

## TORII MOR

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Olson Estate Vineyard 2008

**91 points | \$55 | 187 cases made | Red**

Smooth and velvety, with ripe cherry and roasted meat flavors oozing through the fine tannins, lingering on the open-textured, refined finish. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

## ET FILLE

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Maresh Vineyard 2008

**90 points | \$42 | 100 cases made | Red**

Firm in texture, with crisp tannins around a light, fragrant core of currant, red berry and wet gravel aromas and flavors. Finishes on a peppery note, lingering nicely. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

## SIDURI

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Muirfield Vineyard 2008

**90 points | \$39 | 100 cases made | Red**

Smooth and focused, with a mineral, slatelike edge to the flavor profile that centers around cherry and blackberry. Welcome freshness and transparency make this a winner. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

## TORII MOR

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills La Colina Vineyard 2008

**90 points | \$50 | 165 cases made | Red**

Light and jazzy, offering juicy raspberry, Montmorency cherry, cinnamon and tobacco flavors that ride easily over fine tannins through a lovely, transparent finish. Drink now through 2016.—*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, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

## MARCASSIN

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Blue-Slide Ridge Vineyard 2005  
**97 points | \$90 | 150 cases made | Red**

Intense and focused, complex and full-bodied, with tiers of spicy black cherry, wild berry, raspberry and plum, at points subtle yet expansive, with touches of anise, mineral, sage and cherry rhubarb. The finish sails on and on. Drink now through 2016. *From California.—J.L.*

## MARCASSIN

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Three Sisters Vineyard 2005  
**95 points | \$75 | 225 cases made | Red**

Mushroom, forest floor, fresh-turned earth and mineral notes gives this a solid baseline of earthy flavors that provide traction on the full-bodied palate, offering hints of wild berry and raspberry, all the while maintaining its pleasing earthy texture and flavor. Drink now through 2016. *From California.—J.L.*

## PENNER-ASH

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Pas De Nom 2008  
**95 points | \$100 | 250 cases made | Red**

Light on its feet, with gorgeous currant, plum and wet stone aromas and flavors that remain expressive and intense without any apparent weight. Tannins are beautifully integrated, while the finish goes on and on. Drink now through 2020. *From Oregon.—H.S.*

## ELK COVE

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Mount Richmond 2008  
**94 points | \$48 | 894 cases made | Red**

Smooth and silky, delivering a root beer-like sassafras and anise character weaving through the blackberry, cherry and spice flavors with transparency and vibrancy. Picks up some cream and tobacco as the finish lingers. Best from 2012 through 2018. *From Oregon.—H.S.*

## WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

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*Wine Spectator's* tasting staff includes 14 people in three offices. They work together to review more than 18,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our seven senior tasters count more than 140 years of tasting experience.

We always taste wine blind in our offices in Napa, New York and Tuscany. 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; their initials identify the taster of each wine reviewed. We score wines using the 100-point scale, explained below.

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: California

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat:  
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**Thomas Matthews** Executive editor, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat:  
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**Tim Fish** (California),  
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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