

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

SINE QUA NON

Grenache Sta. Rita Hills Dangerous Birds Eleven Confessions Vineyard 2007

94 points | \$220 | 172 cases made | Red

A rich, graceful mix of dark berry, charcoal, subtle cedar and spice notes joins shades of dried berry. This is medium- to full-bodied and elegantly styled, ending with a pleasing lift. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

ADOBE ROAD

Cabernet Sauvignon Knights Valley Bavarian Lion Vineyard 2008

93 points | \$75 | 230 cases made | Red

Well-done in a very ripe and juicy style, with rich plum and berry, black licorice, mocha and cedar flavors. This is full-bodied and supple, leading to a long, fleshy, persistent finish. Drink now through 2018.—*J.L.*

ADOBE ROAD

Syrah Dry Creek Valley Kemp Vineyard 2009

93 points | \$45 | 336 cases made | Red

This rich, seductive Syrah offers supple tiers of smoky oak, dried berry, roasted herb, melted black licorice, road tar and cigar flavors. Full-bodied, firming on the finish. Drink now through 2019.—*J.L.*

CHALK HILL

W.P. Foley II Chalk Hill 2009

93 points | \$150 | 176 cases made | Red

A gorgeous mouthful of plush layers of Cabernet, with generous plum, wild berry, blackberry, cassis and mocha flavors. This is full-bodied, graceful and refined, firming ever so slightly on the finish, which features a roasted coffee aftertaste. Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Best from 2013 through 2024.—*J.L.*

DAVIES VINEYARDS

Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Ferrington Vineyards 2009

93 points | \$50 | 205 cases made | Red

This presents the supple, floral, wilted rose and dried berry scents of Pinot, joined by a firm backbone of acidity and tannins. Woven in are hints of fresh earth, anise, cedar and black tea. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

LEWIS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Hillstone Vineyard 2009

93 points | \$130 | 250 cases made | Red

Tight, dense, chewy and complex, with tiers of dried berry, mineral, tobacco, sage and currant flavors. Full-bodied, this is muscular yet expansive on the finish, where the flavors fan out nicely. Drink now through 2023.—*J.L.*

MACMURRAY RANCH

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Winemaker's Block Selection 2009

93 points | \$60 | 300 cases made | Red

This remarkably complex and sophisticated effort is generous, layered and seductive, filled with rich, focused blueberry, wild berry and blackberry fruit. The finish features spicy black tea notes. Drink now through 2020.—*J.L.*

PALOMA

Merlot Spring Mountain District 2009

93 points | \$54 | 1,120 cases made | Red

Sleek and richly structured, with aromas of red currant and loamy black olive leading to plush, complex flavors of ripe plum, mocha and toasty oak. Drink now through 2016.—*T.F.*

PATZ & HALL

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Chenoweth Ranch 2009

93 points | \$55 | 635 cases made | Red

Very impressive, pure and firm, this is marked by a density of flavor, with tight flavors of dark blackberry, cedar, spice and mineral. Full-bodied, deep and persistent on the finish. Needs time. Drink now through 2021.—*J.L.*

PRIDE

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Vintner Select Cuvée 2008

93 points | \$85 | 531 cases made | Red

This fresh, rich and juicy red features layered flavors of black cherry, red and black licorice, cedar, spice and floral scents. Full-bodied and firming midpalate, this ends with fine-grained, detailed tannins. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

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.

TOR

Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain Cimarossa Vineyard 2009

97 points | \$75 | 300 cases made | Red

A deliciously complex, intriguing, exciting expression of Cabernet. Firm where it should be, with a subtle mix of acidity and tannins. Generous and layered with spicy berry flavors that sail on and on. Drink now through 2025. *From California.—J.L.*

KINSELLA

Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Creek Valley 2008

95 points | \$100 | 155 cases made | Red

A gorgeous wine that delivers a pure, rich dark berry mix of flavors, with blackberry and mocha at the core. Full-bodied yet graceful and balanced, gaining depth without gaining weight. Long, tapered finish. Drink now through 2024. *From California.—J.L.*

LEWIS

Cuvee L Napa Valley 2007

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

A powerful expression, rich and extracted, boasting dense flavors of blackberry and wild berry, cedar, tobacco, spice and mineral, yet for all its size, it glides along nicely, ending with chewy tannins. Full all the way. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2025. *From California.—J.L.*

SINE QUA NON

Syrah Sta. Rita Hills Dangerous Birds Eleven Confessions Vineyard 2007

95 points | \$220 | 344 cases made | Red

Starts out sleek and elegant, with a subtle mix of charcoal, smoke, dried berry, mocha, coconut and subtle pomegranate notes that are at times explosive yet restrained, leading to a long, rather amazing, finish. Drink now through 2024. *From California.—J.L.*

ADOBE ROAD

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer Georges III 2008

94 points | \$95 | 220 cases made | Red

Beautifully crafted, this weaves together a rich array of dark berry, plum and blackberry fruit that's rich, supple and silky-textured. The long, persistent finish shows off Rutherford's loamy soils. Drink now through 2024. *From California.—J.L.*

BERINGER

Cabernet Sauvignon Knights Valley Reserve 2009

94 points | \$45 | 3,602 cases made | Red

Beringer ups the ante with its Knights Valley red; this offers rich, smooth, layered flavors of blackberry, wild berry, plum and cassis. Full-bodied yet graceful and elegant, most interesting on the finish, where the flavors glide along and pick up a subtle lift of spice and mocha. Drink now through 2024. *From California.—J.L.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 12 people in two offices. They work together to review more than 18,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our six 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; their initials identify the taster of each wine reviewed. We score wines using the 100-point scale, explained below.

James Laube Senior editor, Napa
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: California

Kim Marcus Managing editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Austria, Greece, Port, Portugal, Southern 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

Thomas Matthews Executive editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: New York, Spain

James Molesworth Senior editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Argentina, Bordeaux, Chile, Finger Lakes, Loire Valley, Rhône Valley, South Africa

Bruce Sanderson Tasting director, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1993. Tasting beat: Burgundy, Champagne, Germany, Italy

Harvey Steiman Editor at large, San Francisco
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: Australia, Oregon, Washington

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