

# Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

**WEST COAST REDS AND SUMPTUOUS OLD WORLD PICKS** compose this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, with wines from California, Oregon and France, up to 96 points. This is a report of the most exciting wines our editors have discovered in the tasting room in recent weeks.

Napa Cabernets from PlumpJack and Odette deliver massive flavor, while elegant Oregon Pinot Noirs from Purple Hands and Alexana impress. From France, Rhône leaders Tardieu-Laurent and Domaine de la Charbonnière stand alongside Burgundy masters Chandon de Briailles and Ramonet. Seven great values scored 90-plus points and cost \$40 or less. Turn to page 4 for the five Hot Wines.

## PURPLE HANDS

**Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Kropf Vineyard 2015**

**94 points | \$50 | 100 cases made | Red**

A velvety wine, with violet and plush raspberry aromas and supple, layered black cherry and toasted spice flavors that linger on the palate. Drink now through 2025. —T.F.

## 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 nearly 20,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our 11 tasters count more than 220 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).

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

**Harvey Steiman** Editor at large, San Francisco  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1984. Tasting beat: At large

**Kim Marcus** Senior editor, Napa  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Argentina, California, Chile

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

**Bruce Sanderson** Senior editor, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1993. Tasting beat: Austria, Burgundy, Italy

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

**MaryAnn Worobiec** Senior editor, Napa  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Australia, California, New Zealand

**Alison Napjus** Senior editor and tasting director, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2000. Tasting beat: Alsace, Champagne, Italy

**Tim Fish** Senior editor, Napa  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2001. Tasting beat: California, Oregon, Washington

**Gillian Sciarretta** Tasting coordinator, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2012. Tasting beat: France, Portugal

**Aleksandar Zecevic**, Associate tasting coordinator, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2013. Tasting beat: Germany

#### 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