

# Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

**THE 2012 CALIFORNIA VINTAGE** continues to impress, and this week's *Wine Spectator Insider* features the highest-rated wine yet from the bunch, a remarkable Napa Cabernet at 97 points. These are the wines that our editors have been most excited by in recent tastings.

The 2012 lineup from Napa standout Bevan knocks it out of the park in this report, but Old World fans will find wines to love from France's Southern Rhône Valley, as well as from Germany, where Riesling is king. The dry reds of Portugal come on strong in 2012 after a watershed 2011 vintage, and Pinot pursuers can look to great examples in Oregon. Value seekers will be pleased to see 10 wines here at 90-plus points and \$40 or less. Don't miss the six Hot Wines on page 4.

## PURPLE HANDS

### Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Latchkey Vineyard 2013 91 points | \$40 | 450 cases made | Red

Lithe and silky, with pretty cherry, pear and spice flavors on a fine-grained texture. This is nicely framed, finishing with persistence and delicacy. Drink now through 2020.—H.S.

## 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 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).

**James Laube** Senior editor, Napa  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1981. Tasting beat: California

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

**Kim Marcus** Managing editor, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Argentina, Austria, Chile, Germany, Portugal

**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: Burgundy, Italy

**James Molesworth** Senior editor, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Bordeaux, Loire Valley, 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, Beaujolais, Champagne, Italy

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

**Gillian Sciaretta** Tasting coordinator, New York  
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 |