

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 Stoller Vineyard 2013 93 points | \$40 | 460 cases made | Red

Light, lithe and seductively supple, with pure cherry and black-berry flavors at the center, gliding into an open texture that adds glints of pear and jasmine as the finish lingers easily. Drink now through 2022.—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