

# Wine Spectator Insider

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A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

A CLASSIC Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir from one of the category's top names leads this issue of the *Wine Spectator Insider*. James Laube reviews two Aubert Pinots from the classic-rated 2007 vintage this week; they are this issue's top-scoring wines and you'll find both of them among the Hot Wines, on page 4. Also from California, Tim Fish's latest outstanding Zinfandel reviews, all from the 2007 vintage as well, are featured here.

From Burgundy, Bruce Sanderson reviews Beaune reds from the potentially very good 2007 vintage there. He also reviews 11 Riesling spätlesen from Germany's Mosel region. All of them come from 2008, which in his June 25 blog, Sanderson calls a "spätlese vintage," even more precise than the classic-rated 2007 vintage, with higher acidity. Finally, Harvey Steiman offers his own selection of Pinot Noirs for this issue, his reviews coming from the 2007 and 2006 vintages in Oregon.

## California

### ROSENBLUM

Zinfandel Rockpile Rockpile Road Vineyard 2007  
**90 points | \$35 | 5,429 cases made | Red**

Ripe and lush, this is loaded with zesty, lingering flavors of licorice that follow aromas of black raspberry, pepper and toasty sage. Drink now through 2014.—*T.F.*

### TALBOTT

Chardonnay Monterey County 2006  
**90 points | \$52 | 750 cases made | White**

A very distinctive style. Full-bodied and well-done, rich and unctuous, showing bold, fleshy ripe fig, honey, melon and spicy hazelnut flavors, with light oak shadings. Ends with a long, honeyed finish. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*

### WILSON

Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Carl's Vineyard 2007  
**90 points | \$32 | 571 cases made | Red**

Zesty and loaded with personality, offering briary and smoky berry aromas and ripe huckleberry, white pepper and bacon flavors that are wrapped in lively tannins. Drink now through 2014.—*T.F.*

### WILSON

Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley Molly's Vineyard 2007  
**90 points | \$32 | 489 cases made | Red**

Ripe and zesty, with plum and smoked meat aromas and plush black raspberry, licorice and dried sage flavors that finish with briary tannins. Drink now through 2015.—*T.F.*

## France Burgundy

### DOMAINE SEGUIN-MANUEL

Beaune Champimont 2007  
**92 points | \$68 | 75 cases imported | Red**

A distinctive note of cinnamon gives way to cherry and raspberry in this supple red, which is harmonious enough to drink now, but also has the stricture to age. There's a nice berry and mineral aftertaste. Drink now through 2022.—*B.S.*

## JEAN-MARC BOULEY

Beaune Les Reversées 2007

**91 points | \$54 | 200 cases made | Red**

Purity and focus are the highlights of this cherry- and mineral-flavored red. Bright and lively, with supportive tannins in the right proportion. The finish is mouthwatering. Best from 2011 through 2021.—*B.S.*

## DOMAINE POTEL

Beaune Les Teurons 2007

**91 points | \$87 | 273 cases made | Red**

Enticing aromas of flowers and spice are followed by cherry, strawberry and more spice in this intense, firm and mineral-laced red. There's serious structure, with a layer of sweet fruit that should meld nicely over time. Best from 2011 through 2021.—*B.S.*

## BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Beaune Clos de la Mousse 2007

**90 points | \$58 | 250 cases imported | Red**

Firm and chewy in texture, with dense tannins holding the black cherry, rose and herbal flavors together. Concentrated and muscular, a robust style for the village. Fine length. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

## BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Beaune Premier Cru du Château 2007

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

Plenty of spice leads off, with cherry and mineral to boot. There are some light tannins that need to be absorbed, yet this is balanced overall and long. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

## CHAMPY

Beaune Champs Pimont 2007

**90 points | \$87 | 280 cases made | Red**

The cherry and berry notes are sweet and succulent in this fruity red, which is backed by a vibrant structure and lingers nicely on the finish, where there's fine stony grip. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

## DOMAINE FAIVELEY

Beaune Clos de l'Écu 2007

**90 points | \$75 | 26 cases imported | Red**

Raspberry, blueberry and cola flavors mingle in this juicy red, which quickly tightens as the tannins emerge and the finish is pinched for now, but the sweet fruit returns. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

## LOUIS LATOUR

Beaune Perrières 2007

**90 points | \$65 | 380 cases made | Red**

Shows dark and inviting aromas and flavors of black cherry, black currant and mineral. Round and polished, with lingering oak tannins and spice on the finish. Best from 2010 through 2020.—*B.S.*

## JACQUES PRIEUR

Beaune Champs Pimont 2007

**90 points | \$62 | 50 cases imported | Red**

A plush, modern style, in an elegant, slim profile. Vanilla and bright cherry and blackberry flavors match up with firm yet civilized tannins. Needs a year or two to integrate. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

# Germany

## DR. PAULY-BERGWEILER

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2008

**93 points | \$33 | 500 cases made | White**

Hints of violet are complemented by ripe peach, black currant and spice flavors in this complex, inviting white. Offers fine structure and texture, with a long, lingering aftertaste of peach and stone. Drink now through 2032.—*B.S.*

## DR. PAULY-BERGWEILER

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2008

**92 points | \$29 | 1,000 cases made | White**

A rich, juicy Riesling, exhibiting lively acidity to focus its apricot, nectarine, apple and salty lime essence. Terrific balance and harmony, followed by a long finish, makes for a winning combination. Drink now through 2032.—*B.S.*

## DR. HEIDEMANNNS-BERGWEILER

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Graacher Himmelreich 2008

**91 points | \$23 | 300 cases imported | White**

Crisp and savory, with peach, pear and mineral aromas and flavors. Supple and creamy, with fine balance and a long, lip-smacking aftertaste. Drink now through 2030.—*B.S.*

## PETER NICOLAY

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Ürziger Goldwingert 2008

**91 points | \$25 | 50 cases imported | White**

Starts out ripe and round, with plenty of peach, nectarine and slate notes. The fine structure sneaks in midpalate and drives the savory, mineral finish. Really mouthwatering. Drink now through 2030.—*B.S.*

## DR. HEIDEMANNNS-BERGWEILER

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2008

**90 points | \$24 | 500 cases imported | White**

Warm brown spices, apple, lime and saline elements make this white expressive. Racy and well-balanced, with more appeal up front than on the finish. Time may add length. Drink now through 2025.—*B.S.*

## REICHSGRAF VON KESSELSTATT

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Josephshöfer 2008

**90 points | \$52 | 105 cases made | White**

Ripe apple and floral aromas start out, adding a squeeze of lime on the palate, making this Riesling fresh and appealing. Balanced and almost chalky on the finish. Drink now through 2028.—*B.S.*

## PETER NICOLAY

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2008  
**90 points | \$25 | 100 cases imported | White**

Saturated with peach and nectarine flavors, this white is bright and succulent. The richness is offset by tangy acidity and a lively finish. Drink now through 2028.—*B.S.*

## MAX FERD. RICHTER

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Brauneberger  
Juffer-Sonnenuhr 2008  
**90 points | \$29 | 550 cases made | White**

The peach, apple, lime and slate notes are accented by a touch of vanilla in this delicate, creamy white, which is fresh and leaves a mouthwatering impression. Drink now through 2025.—*B.S.*

## C. VON SCHUBERT

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Maximin Grünhäuser  
Herrenberg 2008  
**90 points | \$36 | 109 cases made | White**

A mix of black currant, vanilla, lime and slate marks this finely etched Riesling, which is aromatic and juicy. Shows fine balance in a delicate style, with a mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2028.—*B.S.*

# Oregon

## BETHEL HEIGHTS

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Flat Block 2007  
**92 points | \$50 | 151 cases made | Red**

Light and silky, a gorgeous, delicate style that lets its red berry and plum fruit dance sinuously over the polished, racy frame. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

## ALEXANA

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Revana Vineyard 2007  
**91 points | \$38 | 1,200 cases made | Red**

Smooth, polished and generous with its orange peel-accented cherry and tobacco flavors, finishing expressively against silky tannins. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

## AYOUB

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills 2007  
**91 points | \$52 | 400 cases made | Red**

Smooth and polished, with cherry and spice flavors playing across a firm, focused frame. Fine tannins leave the finish feeling open. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

## BERGSTRÖM

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Nysa Vineyard 2007  
**91 points | \$55 | 595 cases made | Red**

Firm in texture, with a smoky edge to the burst of raspberry and pomegranate fruit, picking up some floral notes as this gains traction against mild tannins and the finish takes off. Best from 2010 through 2017.—*H.S.*

## DOMAINE DROUHIN

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Laurène 2006  
**91 points | \$65 | 2,500 cases made | Red**

Smooth and focused, this well-mannered, medium-weight wine has fresh, ripe currant and plum flavors, with hints of white pepper and cream as the finish lingers. Drink now through 2014.—*H.S.*

## IRIS

Pinot Noir Oregon Reserve 2006  
**91 points | \$36 | 504 cases made | Red**

Smooth and focused, with a meaty note weaving through the dark berry and spice flavors, lingering on the round, generous finish. Drink now through 2013.—*H.S.*

## LACHINI

Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains Cuvée Giselle 2007  
**91 points | \$65 | 290 cases made | Red**

Smooth and velvety, with a nubby feel to the tannins around a generous core of plum, berry and spice flavor. Lingers easily and effectively, demanding another sip. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

## ROCO

Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains Private Stash 2007  
**91 points | \$75 | 250 cases made | Red**

Light and silky, with an airy feel to the delicate plum and floral aromas and flavors, lingering easily on the refined, expressive finish. Drink now through 2014.—*H.S.*

## ADELSHEIM

Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains Calkins Lane  
Vineyard 2007  
**90 points | \$58 | 249 cases made | Red**

Very spicy and floral. Aromatic, with cardamom, rose petal and lime blossom overtones to its cranberry and cherry flavors, lingering on the light, velvety finish. Drink now through 2012.—*H.S.*

## ADELSHEIM

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Winderlea Vineyard 2007  
**90 points | \$75 | 60 cases made | Red**

Light and tangy, with a juicy feel to the delicately smoky cherry and raspberry flavors, lingering against refined tannins on the expressive finish. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

## MAYSARA

Pinot Noir McMinnville Estate Cuvée 2007  
**90 points | \$32 | 1,000 cases made | Red**

Light and fragrant, yet this fills the mouth with lovely, focused raspberry, cherry and floral flavors, lingering unhindered by tannins on the refined finish. Drink now through 2012.—*H.S.*

## MAYSARA

Pinot Noir McMinnville Mitra 2006  
**90 points | \$85 | 150 cases made | Red**

Light, with spicy, tobacco-accented cherry flavors on a racy frame, lingering on the ripe finish. Drink now through 2013.—*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.

## AUBERT

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast UV Vineyard 2007  
**96 points | \$80 | NA cases made | Red**

Spicy baked cherry pie, plum and wild berry aromas turn elegant and refined. Full-bodied, but not weighty, allowing the rich flavors to dance on the palate, ending with a long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2015. *From California.—J.L.*

## AUBERT

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Reuling Vineyard 2007  
**94 points | \$80 | NA cases made | Red**

Dark, ripe and expressive, full-bodied and very complex, with tiers of black cherry, plum, spice, subtle earth and mocha-chocolate notes. Despite its depth of flavor, this sits elegantly on the palate and ends with a delicate mix of flavors. Drink now through 2015. *From California.—J.L.*

## REICHSGRAF VON KESSELSTATT

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Scharzhofberger 2008  
**93 points | \$39 | 500 cases made | White**

Very sleek and elegant, exhibiting apple, slate and orange Cream-sicle flavors matched to a slim frame. This has fine intensity, with lingering violet and black currant accents. Compelling. Drink now through 2030. *From Germany.—B.S.*

## DR. PAULY-BERGWEILER

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg 2008  
**93 points | \$33 | 400 cases made | White**

A deep, creamy style, with lime, apricot, herbal and bouillon notes that add complexity and a savory component, giving this great range and dimension, along with balance and harmony. There's a nice lingering finish. Drink now through 2032. *From Germany.—B.S.*

## WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

### The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

*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

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

**Thomas Matthews** Executive editor, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat:  
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**James Molesworth** Senior editor, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Argentina, Chile,  
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**Bruce Sanderson** Tasting director, New York  
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**Harvey Steiman** Editor at large, San Francisco  
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**James Suckling** European bureau chief, Italy  
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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