

# Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Biweekly Publication

**VIBRANT RIESLINGS AND OPULENT CHARDONNAYS** offer plenty of outstanding warm-weather wine choices in this week's *Insider*. Marcel Deiss and Trimbach provide the top-scoring Alsace Rieslings here, while the Chardonnays all come from the ripe, exotic 2009 vintage in Burgundy, with Louis Jadot and Mischief & Mayhem leading this group of Meursaults. This issue's top-scoring wine, however, is a rich red from Italy's Veneto. You'll find two Amarones della Valpolicella from top producer Tommaso Bussola among the Hot Wines, on page 4.

## FRANCE Alsace

### MARCEL DEISS

Alsace Engelgarten Le Jardin des Anges 2008  
**92 points | \$38 | 500 cases made | White**

Like fine silk, this mouthwatering white seamlessly weaves flavors of ripe apple, honeyed apricot, kumquat and fleur de sel with aromatic hints of pine forest, Thai basil and smoke, vibrant acidity and an overall richness. Riesling, Muscat, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

### MARCEL DEISS

Alsace Grand Cru Schoenenbourg 2007  
**92 points | \$96 | 250 cases made | White**

Rich and smoky, with notes of dried mint and marjoram accenting flavors of honeyed apricot, candied orange peel, beeswax, lemon curd and ground spices. Lush and silky, but offering fine balance thanks to well-cut, lively acidity, with a long, smoke-tinged, mineral finish. Roughly 70 percent Riesling, with Pinot Gris, Gewürztraminer and Muscat. Drink now through 2020.—A.N.

### ROLLY GASSMANN

Riesling Alsace 2008  
**92 points | \$30 | 750 cases made | White**

Finely honed acidity creates a mouthwatering quality that enlivens the lightly honeyed flavors of green melon, fig, smoky mineral, pineapple and quince, with lots of spice. There's an array of flavor, but in a sleek, streamlined package. Drink now through 2022.—A.N.

### ROLLY GASSMANN

Riesling Alsace Kappelweg de Rorschwihr 2008  
**92 points | \$68 | 50 cases imported | White**

Lightly honeyed flavors of pineapple, crisp peach, green melon and star fruit are backed by racy acidity in this intense, mouthwatering white, which is finely balanced, with a long, mineral finish. Though still showing some youthful fleshiness, this should age beautifully. Drink now through 2028.—A.N.

### SCHOFFIT

Riesling Alsace Grand Cru Rangen Clos St.-Théobald Schistes 2010  
**92 points | \$57 | 30 cases imported | White**

There's a richness to this white, yet set in a lithe frame and offering finesse in the balance. Shows layered flavors of ripe peach, lemon meringue, apple tarte Tatin, candied pineapple, smoky mineral, honey and anise. Bright and focused through to the citrusy finish. Drink now through 2022.—A.N.

### DOMAINE GRESSER

Riesling Alsace Grand Cru Wiebelsberg Vieilles Vignes 1998  
**91 points | \$59 | 30 cases imported | White**

A hint of smoky caramel adds richness to subtle, finely woven flavors of dried apple and apricot, almond skin, chamomile and ground spice. Dry and mouthwatering, finding fine balance with some of the wine's richer character. Drink now through 2017.—A.N.

## MEYER-FONNÉ

Riesling Alsace Grand Cru Schoenenbourg 2009  
**91 points | \$44 | NA cases made | White**

Finely meshed and lithe, offering vibrant acidity and flavors of green melon, apple, white peach, spicy mineral and grapefruit zest. Well-balanced, with a lasting finish. Drink now through 2022.—A.N.

## FRANÇOIS & PHILIPPE EHRHART

Riesling Alsace Herrenweg 2010  
**90 points | \$19 | 200 cases made | White**

This lightly sweet white is well-integrated and elegant, with mouth-watering acidity balancing the lush mouthfeel. Offers flavors of poached pear, guava, kumquat and grapefruit granita, with accents of honey, spring blossom and spice. Drink now through 2017.—A.N.

## ROLLY GASSMANN

Riesling Alsace 2009  
**90 points | \$30 | 150 cases imported | White**

Open-knit and fresh, with juicy green melon and watermelon, apple, crystallized honey and peach flavors. There's a spicy stone note throughout, with a zesty finish. Drink now through 2017.—A.N.

# FRANCE

## Burgundy

### MISCHIEF & MAYHEM

Meursault Les Poruzots 2009  
**92 points | \$100 | 150 cases imported | White**

Though ripe, displaying flavors of peach, apple and butterscotch, this white is elegant, too. Harmony and depth persist through the lingering finish. Fine fruit and spice aftertaste. Drink now through 2016.—B.S.

### LOUIS JADOT

Meursault Charmes 2009  
**90 points | \$75 | 43 cases imported | White**

Round, showing a mix of lemon, honey and apple flavors. Light spice accents come into play as this builds to a lingering finish. Fine balance and harmony. Drink now through 2016.—B.S.

### LOUIS JADOT

Meursault Genevrières 2009  
**90 points | \$75 | 48 cases imported | White**

Peach, apple and honey flavors are framed with vanilla, nutmeg and clove notes in this ample, fleshy white. Moderate intensity and acidity keep this pulsing through the finish. Drink now through 2016.—B.S.

### LUCIEN LE MOINE

Meursault Charmes 2009  
**90 points | \$160 | 14 cases imported | White**

Rich peach, lime and citronella notes are offset by lively acidity in this sleek white. Shows good intensity and a citrus-tinged finish. Drink now through 2018.—B.S.

## PIERRE MATROT

Meursault Perrières 2009  
**90 points | \$85 | 120 cases imported | White**

Displays attractive, high-toned flavors of lime candy, apple, honey and butterscotch. This has cut and also a creamy texture, with fine length. Drink now through 2018.—B.S.

## MISCHIEF & MAYHEM

Meursault Les Genevrières 2009  
**90 points | \$125 | 150 cases imported | White**

Concentrated and fleshy, this white delivers peach, pineapple, vanilla and citrus flavors. Bright, firming up on the finish, with lingering notes of citrus and spices. Drink now through 2018.—B.S.

# ITALY

## Veneto

### MONTECI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Costa delle  
Corone 2006  
**93 points | \$120 | 140 cases imported | Red**

This well-knit, traditional-style Amarone offers an appealing undercurrent of tar, grilled herbs and vine clippings, and focused flavors of dried strawberry and cherry, gumdrop and a hint of treacle. Structured by firm tannins that find integration and surface on the richly spiced, smoke-tinged finish. Best from 2014 through 2026.—A.N.

### ROCCOLO GRASSI

Amarone della Valpolicella 2006  
**93 points | \$90 | 300 cases made | Red**

Very harmonious, exhibiting a pure fruit character of strawberry, cherry and dried cranberry, along with spiced plum, gumdrop and sweet smoke notes, with a hint of molasses' richness. There's a pleasant tang to the enlivening acidity, as supple tannins, floral and fragrant herb notes show on the finish. Drink now through 2026.—A.N.

### BRIGALDARA

Amarone della Valpolicella Case Vecie 2007  
**92 points | \$79 | 300 cases imported | Red**

A hint of treacle laces together creamy flavors of macerated cherry, damson plum preserves, sticky bun and coffee liqueur. Kept fresh and finely balanced by juicy acidity, while lightly chewy tannins form the well-honed structure. Spice and kirsch notes linger on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—A.N.

### BRIGALDARA

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2007  
**92 points | \$60 | 1,500 cases imported | Red**

Compact, yet still expressive, this offers a tarry base and well-knit flavors of black cherry, gumdrop, grilled herbs, clove and anise. Fresh acidity keeps this lively and focused, while fine-grained tannins and a graphite note gain momentum on the finish. Best from 2014 through 2025.—A.N.

## I CAMPI

Amarone della Valpolicella Campo Marna  
Cinquecento 2004  
**92 points | \$225 | 70 cases made | Red**

Understated and elegant, with light tannins and subtle, balancing acidity. Aromatic accents of dried flowers, herbs and spice wind through a silky palate of kirsch, date, balsamic and black licorice notes. Lightly chewy finish. Drink now through 2019.—A.N.

## GINO FASOLI

Amarone della Valpolicella La Corte del Pozzo 2006  
**92 points | \$50 | 400 cases imported | Red**

Dry and spicy, with juicy acidity focusing the rich layers of flavor: dried black currant, crème de cassis, wood smoke, dark chocolate shavings and a touch of balsamic. Displays a muscular frame, but is elegant and refined overall. Mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2026.—A.N.

## MONTE DEL FRÀ

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Tenuta Lena di Mezzo Scarnocchio 2006  
**92 points | \$50 | 100 cases imported | Red**

This lively version offers bright, tangy acidity and flavors of dried cranberry and cherry, tea fruit, red licorice and date. Elegant and leans towards the traditional style, with chewy tannins and accents of grilled herb, spice and vine clippings. A ripe fruit note echoes on the finish. Best from 2014 through 2024.—A.N.

## LATIUM

Amarone della Valpolicella Campo Leòn 2006  
**91 points | \$52 | 280 cases imported | Red**

Very expressive, delivering violet, tea rose and spice notes to accent the creamy flavors of strawberry syrup, cherry preserves, treacle, prune and a hint of espresso. Fresh and lightly tangy, with well-integrated tannins. Drink now through 2018.—A.N.

## NICOLIS

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Ambrosan 2005  
**91 points | \$65 | 300 cases imported | Red**

Firm tannins here frame the airy texture, juicy acidity and modest notes of spiced plum, dried tea fruit, black cherry pâte de fruit, anise and chocolate. Chewy finish. Drink now through 2015.—A.N.

## LE SALETTE

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico La Marega 2007  
**91 points | \$75 | 450 cases imported | Red**

Balanced, delivering pure notes of candied black cherry, licorice string and dried cranberry, joined by floral, graphite, tobacco and ground spice accents. Silky, with ripe tannins, subtle, mouthwatering acidity and a lasting finish. Drink now through 2022.—A.N.

## FRATELLI SPERI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Vigneto Monte Sant'Urbano 2007  
**91 points | \$85 | 8,333 cases made | Red**

With a smoky undercurrent and flavors of fig compote, grilled plum and black currant preserves, this red is balanced and expressive. Integrates fine-grained tannins and intriguing accents of bresaola, violet, ground anise and white pepper notes. Mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2022.—A.N.

## TOMMASI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2008  
**91 points | \$79 | 2,000 cases imported | Red**

Fleshy, with flavors of ripe cherry and plum, creamy notes of red and black licorice and fig paste, joined by accents of pekoe tea leaf, bresaola and spice. Well-integrated, offering good balance, leading to a subtle herb-tinged finish. Drink now through 2018.—A.N.

## ALPHA ZETA

Amarone della Valpolicella 2008  
**90 points | \$50 | 25 cases imported | Red**

Elegant, thanks to fine integration of the fresh acidity and supple tannins. This offers a creamy texture, a spicy undercurrent and flavors of roasted plum, kirsch and hints of sweet smoke and dried herbs. Moderate finish. Drink now through 2018.—A.N.

## ANTICA CORTE

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2008  
**90 points | \$47 | 100 cases imported | Red**

A.N. expressive red, offering velvety texture, mouthwatering acidity and polished tannins. Pure flavors of wild strawberry, black cherry, ripe fig, spice and a hint of semisweet chocolate show on the palate and linger on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—A.N.

## ANTICA CORTE

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2007  
**90 points | \$46 | 400 cases imported | Red**

Appealing for its modest, well-balanced character, this offers pure black cherry and black raspberry fruit, with pomegranate, cured tobacco and spice notes wrapped in velvety tannins and subtle acidity. Drink now through 2022.—A.N.

## CESARI

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Il Bosco 2005  
**90 points | \$80 | 2,300 cases made | Red**

A more traditional style, well-integrated, this features an open-knit texture and subtle flavors of black cherry coulis, black raspberry and gumdrop, with a brambly note of vine clippings. Fresh, showing a modest, lightly tannic finish. Drink now through 2015.—A.N.

## SAN RUSTICO

Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Gaso 2004  
**90 points | \$58 | 25 cases imported | Red**

Subtle earth and tar notes mix with flavors of prune, dried cranberry and a hint of vine clippings in this balanced red. This offers fine-grained tannins and a moderate finish, joined by aromatic notes of violet and spice and a touch of heat. Drink now through 2019.—A.N.

# 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.

## TOMMASO BUSSOLA

**Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Vigneto Alto TB 2006**  
**94 points | \$175 | 400 cases made | Red**

Rich and spicy, with ripe, polished tannins framing flavors of chocolate-covered cherry, kirsch and sweet smoke, and deeper notes of creamy espresso, ground spice, roast almond and molasses. This vibrant, harmonious wine is woven like fine silk. Drink now through 2027. *From Italy.*—A.N.

## TOMMASO BUSSOLA

**Amarone della Valpolicella Classico TB 2006**  
**93 points | \$65 | 2,500 cases made | Red**

Ripe and velvety, with a rich undercurrent of creamy chocolate, joined by flavors of fresh and dried black cherry, date, fig paste, coffee liqueur, sweet smoke and ground spices. Round and harmonious, this shows fine integration to the panoply of flavor, supple tannins and juicy acidity. Drink now through 2022. *From Italy.*—A.N.

## MONTE DEL FRÀ

**Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Tenuta Lena di Mezzo 2007**  
**93 points | \$50 | 100 cases imported | Red**

This vibrant, spice-driven red weaves aromatic ground spice notes through flavors of dried black cherry, dried cranberry, fig paste, graphite, grilled plum and the sweet smokiness of burning vine clippings, all wrapped in muscular, yet ripe, tannins and mouthwatering acidity. Drink now through 2027. *From Italy.*—A.N.

## MARCEL DEISS

**Alsace Grand Cru Altenberg de Bergheim 2007**  
**93 points | \$95 | 250 cases made | White**

Focused, with a firm backbone of acidity and pure flavors of apricot, peach, cantaloupe, grapefruit zest and blood orange. Lightly honeyed and ripe, but still mouthwatering and lively throughout. A zesty mineral base gains momentum toward the lasting spicetinged finish. Riesling with Pinot Gris and Gewürztraminer. Drink now through 2027. *From France.*—A.N.

## MARCEL DEISS

**Alsace Gruenspiel Le Jeu des Verts 2007**  
**93 points | \$48 | 400 cases made | White**

Ripe and fleshy, but backed by well-cut acidity that shows good intensity and finds subtle integration with the lush flavors of crystallized honey, pure apricot, candied orange peel, ground clove, anise and nutmeg and dried mint, with a hint of Sherry-like iodine and a long, mouthwatering finish. Riesling, Gewürztraminer and Pinot Noir. Drink now through 2022. *From France.*—A.N.

## TRIMBACH

**Riesling Alsace Cuvée Frédéric Émile 2005**  
**93 points | \$75 | 3,000 cases made | White**

This racy Riesling shows precision balance and finesse, offering a smoky, minerally undercurrent to layers of fresh apple, white peach, fleur de sel, dried herb and anise flavors. Finely cut and intense, with a long, mouthwatering finish. Better than previously reviewed. Drink now through 2030. *From France.*—A.N.

## 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, 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: Bordeaux, Finger Lakes, Loire Valley, Rhône Valley, South Africa

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

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

#### Tasting staff:

**Tim Fish** (California)

**Alison Napjus** (Alsace, Beaujolais, Champagne, Italy)

**Nathan Wesley** (Argentina, Chile, southern Italy)

**MaryAnn Worobiec** (California, New Zealand)