

Wine Spectator Insider

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A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

THIS week's *Wine Spectator Insider* features nearly 40 exciting wines from California and Washington. From California, James Laube reviews a mixed selection of Cabernets, Chardonnays, Pinot Noirs and more, along with a handful of outstanding Zinfandels reviewed by Tim Fish. The Golden State contingent is led by classic-rated wines from two iconic California wineries, which you'll find among the Hot Wines, on page 4.

Also in this issue, Harvey Steiman covers more than a dozen new Washington reds. Most are Cabernets, Merlots or blends thereof, with the exception of one outstanding wine from an uncommon grape for the state, Tempranillo.

California

LEWIS

Chardonnay Russian River Valley Barcaglia Lane 2007
94 points | \$65 | 600 cases made | White

A rich, creamy, seductive style, with vanilla, nutmeg and smoky oak scents and ripe, pure, polished pear, fig and melon flavors that are remarkably elegant and stylish, gaining body, depth and complexity. Drink now through 2012.—J.L.

MARCASSIN

Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Marcassin Vineyard 2004
94 points | \$125 | 350 cases made | White

Weaves together a complex web of mature pear, fig and golden raisin, with mineral and hints of smoke and anise. Elegant, stylish, mature and focused. Medium- to full-bodied, ending with a subtle, delicate Meursault-like flintiness. Drink now through 2012.—J.L.

LANDMARK

Chardonnay Sonoma-Santa Barbara-Monterey Counties Overlook 2007
92 points | \$29 | 18,000 cases made | White

Green apple, floral, lime and citrus blossom scents give this full-bodied Chardonnay a distinctive edge. Crisp and flinty, ending with wet stone. Drink now through 2012.—J.L.

ARMIDA

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Castelli-Knight Ranch 2007
93 points | \$39 | 220 cases made | Red

Ripe and intense, with savory herb, dried currant and black cherry flavors. Gains depth and complexity, showing its structure and ending with a long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2013.—J.L.

DALLA VALLE

Casa Dalla Valle Napa Valley 2005
93 points | \$80 | 400 cases made | Red

Ripe and juicy black cherry and blackberry fruit is fleshy and well-centered, intense, full-bodied and concentrated. Firms up nicely on the finish, with tight tannins and rich dark fruit. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2010 through 2017.—J.L.

ROESSLER

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Widdoes 2007
92 points | \$48 | 121 cases made | Red

Elegant and focused, with delicate, savory herb, dried berry, cherry and currant flavors that gain velocity and depth. This is especially complex on the finish. Drink now through 2013.—J.L.