

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

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SEMIANNUAL REPORT: JULY 11 - DEC. 19, 2012

The second half of 2012 has clearly smiled on those who love many of the world's great wines. This *Wine Spectator Insider* semiannual report is a roundup of all the classic and outstanding wines that have appeared in the pages of the *Insider* between July 11 and Dec. 19, a total of 921 wines from 12 very diverse regions. These months saw some much-anticipated vintage releases, including 2009 California Cabernets, 2010 Rhônes—in the South it was the best vintage in many years—2008 Barolos and 2010 Burgundies. That wealth of terrific vintages put 259 French wines, 248 California wines and 135 Italian wines in the *Insider* since July, but Australia, Washington, Oregon, South Africa and Chile held their own as well.

The very best wines of this cycle are a reflection of both standout vintages in exceptional *terroirs* and innovators in the wine scene hitting their stride. Two of them, Louis Barruol at Château de St.-Cosme in Gigondas and Isabel Ferrando at Domaine St.-Préfert in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, produced the highest-scoring wines in this report, at 99 points: the Gigondas Le Poste 2010 and the Châteauneuf-du-Pape Collection Charles Giraud 2010, both under \$100. Eight wines came in strong at 98 points: another from St.-Cosme, two Krug Champagnes, the red and white Hermitages of Jean-Louis Chave, Châteauneuf reds from Clos des Papes and Domaine Giraud and a Barossa Shiraz from the masters at Two Hands.

Wines are arranged here in alphabetical order by producer within their regions. Those highlighted as Hot Wines when first published in the *Insider* are marked with a diamond (◆). Each listing includes the wine's score and price; for complete tasting notes, please search our online database at WineSpectator.com.

921 wines reviewed

Argentina:	11
Australia:	40
California:	248
Chile:	18
France:	259
Germany:	14
Italy:	135
Oregon:	88
Portugal:	5
South Africa:	29
Spain:	5
Washington:	69

ARGENTINA

- ◆ Achával-Ferrer Malbec Mendoza Finca Altamira 2010
96 points | \$120 | 800 cases imported | Red
- ◆ Achával-Ferrer Malbec Mendoza Finca Bella Vista 2010
95 points | \$120 | 1,250 cases imported | Red
- Achával-Ferrer Malbec Mendoza Finca Mirador 2010
94 points | \$120 | 1,250 cases imported | Red
- Achával-Ferrer Quimera Mendoza 2010
91 points | \$50 | 5,500 cases imported | Red

Alta Vista

Malbec Luján de Cuyo Alizarine 2010
93 points | \$50 | 200 cases imported | Red

Alta Vista

Malbec Uco Valley Temis 2010
93 points | \$50 | 200 cases imported | Red

Alta Vista

Malbec Luján de Cuyo Serenade 2010
92 points | \$50 | 200 cases imported | Red

Bodega Colomé

Malbec Calchaquí Valley 2010
91 points | \$30 | 9,700 cases imported | Red

◆ Bodega Noemía de Patagonia

Río Negro Valley 2010
95 points | \$129 | 330 cases made | Red

Switchback Ridge	Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Peterson Family Vineyard 2009 92 points \$80 1,216 cases made Red
◆ Tensley	Syrah Santa Barbara County Tierra Alta Vineyard 2010 94 points \$38 225 cases made Red
◆ Tor	Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Clone 6 2009 95 points \$150 175 cases made Red
◆ Tor	Syrah Napa Valley Rock Hommage Allan 2010 95 points \$44 200 cases made Red
Tor	Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Clone 4 2009 93 points \$150 150 cases made Red
Turley	Petite Syrah Paso Robles Pesenti Vineyard 2010 94 points \$35 150 cases made Red
Turley	Zinfandel Paso Robles Pesenti Vineyard 2010 93 points \$35 900 cases made Red
Venge	Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Family Reserve 2009 93 points \$135 350 cases made Red
Vice Versa	Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2008 92 points \$150 200 cases made Red
Vine Cliff	Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Private Stock 16 Rows 2009 92 points \$150 310 cases made Red
Vineyard 29	Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Cru 2009 92 points \$54 5,844 cases made Red
Vineyard 29	Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena 29 Estate 2009 92 points \$225 665 cases made Red
Walt	Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills Sanford and Benedict 2010 94 points \$60 206 cases made Red

CHILE

◆ Viña Almaviva	Puente Alto 2009 96 points \$135 12,500 cases made Red
◆ Casa Lapostolle	Clos Apalta Colchagua Valley 2009 96 points \$90 6,361 cases made Red
Casa Lapostolle	Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Valley Cuvée Alexandre Apalta Vineyard 2010 92 points \$25 10,700 cases made Red
Casa Lapostolle	Carmenère Colchagua Valley Cuvée Alexandre Apalta Vineyard 2010 92 points \$25 2,800 cases made Red
Casa Lapostolle	Syrah Cachapoal Valley Cuvée Alexandre Las Kuras Vineyard 2009 91 points \$25 2,326 cases made Red
Casa Lapostolle	Merlot Colchagua Valley Cuvée Alexandre Apalta Vineyard 2009 90 points \$25 2,000 cases imported Red
Viñedos Emiliana	Gé Colchagua Valley 2008 91 points \$92 355 cases made Red
Bodegas y Viñedos O. Fournier	Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc-Merlot Maule Valley Alfa Centauri 2008 93 points \$49 500 cases imported Red
Bodegas y Viñedos O. Fournier	Maule Valley 2008 93 points \$93 200 cases imported Red
Kingston Family	Syrah Casablanca Valley Lucero 2010 90 points \$18 1,130 cases made Red
Lapostolle	Canto de Apalta Rapel Valley 2010 90 points \$20 8,500 cases made Red
Matetic	Syrah San Antonio EQ 2010 91 points \$43 2,100 cases made Red
◆ Viña Montes	Alpha M Santa Cruz 2010 96 points \$90 500 cases imported Red
◆ Viña Montes	Folly Santa Cruz 2010 95 points \$90 250 cases imported Red

Viña Montes	Purple Angel Colchagua Valley 2010 93 points \$60 500 cases imported Red
Viña Montes	Sauvignon Blanc Aconcagua Valley Outer Limits Zapallar Vineyard 2011 90 points \$30 150 cases imported White
Viña San Pedro	Carmenère Maule Valley Tierras Moradas 2008 93 points \$44 600 cases made Red
Viña Santa Rita	Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley Casa Real 2008 92 points \$75 2,500 cases made Red

FRANCE

Pierre Amadieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Paillousse 2010 92 points \$45 1,500 cases made Red
Pierre Amadieu	Gigondas Romane Machotte 2010 92 points \$29 9,000 cases made Red
Pierre Amadieu	Vinsobres Les Piallats 2010 91 points \$20 1,500 cases made Red
Guy Amiot	Chassagne-Montrachet Les Vergers 2009 92 points \$96 200 cases made White
Ayala	Brut Nature Champagne Perle d'Ayala 2002 94 points \$160 833 cases made Sparkling
Louis & Cherry Barruol	Hermitage La Pierrelle 2010 93 points \$74 92 cases made Red
◆ Domaine des Baumard	Quarts de Chaume 2009 96 points \$83 250 cases imported Dessert
Domaine des Baumard	Coteaux du Layon Clos de Ste.-Catherine 2009 94 points \$59 100 cases imported Dessert
Domaine des Baumard	Coteaux du Layon Carte d'Or 2010 93 points \$29 100 cases imported Dessert
Domaine des Baumard	Savennières Clos du Papillon 2009 93 points \$40 300 cases imported White
Domaine des Baumard	Savennières 2009 92 points \$25 1,200 cases imported White
◆ Domaine de Beurenard	Châteauneuf-du-Pape Boisrenard 2010 97 points \$70 750 cases made Red
Domaine de Beurenard	Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Boisrenard 2010 95 points \$65 150 cases made White
Gérard Bertrand	Minervois La Livinière Le Viala 2010 91 points \$80 600 cases made Red
Laurent Betton	Condrieu 2009 93 points \$38 300 cases made White
Jean-Marc Boillot	Puligny-Montrachet Champ-Canet 2010 91 points \$107 50 cases imported White
Jean-Marc Boillot	Puligny-Montrachet Les Combettes 2010 91 points \$125 40 cases imported White
Jean-Charles Boisset	Gevrey-Chambertin Lavaut St.-Jacques 2009 93 points \$88 83 cases made Red
Pascal Bonhomme	Viré-Clessé Vieilles Vignes 2009 90 points \$23 100 cases imported White
Domaine de Bonserine	Côte-Rôtie La Viallière 2009 93 points \$85 350 cases made Red
Bosquet des Papes	Châteauneuf-du-Pape A La Gloire de Mon Grand-Père 2010 94 points \$61 500 cases made Red
Bosquet des Papes	Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Tradition 2010 93 points \$44 3,000 cases made Red
Domaine des Bosquets	Gigondas Le Lieu Dit 2010 94 points \$50 50 cases made Red
Domaine La Bouissière	Gigondas La Font de Tonin 2009 94 points \$50 480 cases made Red
Henri Bourgeois	Sancerre Étienne Henri 2009 93 points \$50 950 cases made White