

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

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NEW NAPA CABERNETS ARE ROLLING IN, both the later releases from the terrific 2009 vintage and the first of the 2010s, promising more quality to come. Among the Cabernets and blends out of Napa and Sonoma in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, up to 95 points, are offerings from Raymond, Carter, Beau Vigne, Coupe de Foudre, Kongsgaard, Tor and Terlato, as well as the latest Beringer Knights Valley Reserve, a new Bordeaux blend from Beringer and Dave Phinney's 2011 The Prisoner.

Cab fans can also find fine examples from Washington here, with Baer and Sparkman contributing, while Oregon provides Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Riesling. Domaine Serene, Sineann and Trisaetum are a few names to look for. Eight wines across all three states come in at \$40 or less. Find the six Hot Wines for this week on page 4.

CALIFORNIA

HEROLD

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley
Herold by Mark Herold 2010
94 points | \$195 | 158 cases made | Red

Plush and structured, with pure, ripe notes of plum, blackberry, jazzy oak and crushed rock, gaining depth and persistence. Features an intriguing finish, where the flavors unfold. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

LARKMEAD

LMV Salon Napa Valley 2009
94 points | \$125 | 736 cases made | Red

Features bold, rich flavors that are dense and layered, with dark berry, mocha, subtle herb, black licorice and crushed rock, firming and gripping on the strong and persistent finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Merlot. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*

CARTER

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley
Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard The Grand Daddy 2010
93 points | \$135 | 111 cases made | Red

A powerful, open-throttle Cabernet, brimming with intense flavors and sturdy tannins. Features lots of locked-down flavors, with hints of mocha, espresso, crushed rock and graphite. Begs for cellaring. Best from 2014 through 2024.—*J.L.*

HEROLD

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2010
93 points | \$95 | 273 cases made | Red

Intense and vibrant, with a tight, rich core of blackberry, spice, mineral and cedar, gaining depth and complexity. A touch of espresso shows on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

JC CELLARS

Zinfandel Rockpile Botticelli Vineyard 2010
93 points | \$42 | 226 cases made | Red

Features plenty of power in reserve. The floral aromas of huckleberry and loamy licorice lead to dense and complex flavors that balance ripe fruit and big tannins against lively acidity, with wild berry and brown spice notes. Drink now through 2021.—*T.F.*

LAIRD FAMILY

Jillian's Blend Napa Valley 2009
93 points | \$42 | 1,470 cases made | Red

Features a complex mix of savory herb, dried berry, tobacco and mocha, ending with muscular tannins and well-focused flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Merlot. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

RAYMOND

Cabernet Sauvignon Calistoga District Collection 2009
93 points | \$75 | 224 cases made | Red

Well-oaked, with toasty mocha and dill notes leading to a chocolate-laced core of dark berry. Firms on the finish, ending with spicy, chewy tannins and excellent length. Drink now through 2021.—*J.L.*

TERLATO

Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District 2009
93 points | \$60 | 1,000 cases made | Red

Strikes an inviting balance of intensity and finesse, displaying a rich core of dark berry, mocha, black licorice and crushed rock, ending with a graceful crease on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

BERINGER

Quantum Napa Valley 2010
92 points | \$60 | 6,000 cases made | Red

Offers an assertive mix of dried currant, plum, blackberry, dill, cedar and mocha-laced oak. Well-structured, firming nicely on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Sirah and Petit Verdot. A new Bordeaux-style blend from Beringer. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

JC CELLARS

Syrah Rockpile Haley Rockpile Vineyard 2010
92 points | \$60 | 166 cases made | Red

A pepper extravaganza that is rich, firm and supported by crushed rock and vibrant dark berry flavors. Sails on, but begs for cellaring. Drink now through 2021.—*J.L.*

JC CELLARS

Zinfandel Sonoma Valley Iron Hill Vineyard 2010
92 points | \$35 | 100 cases made | Red

Bold, jammy and a bit exotic, with aromas of black raspberry and smoky baking spices. The texture is ripe and fleshy, and the flavors are jammed with cherry pie, licorice and pepper. Drink now through 2020.—*T.F.*

KONGSGAARD

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2010
92 points | \$150 | 280 cases made | Red

A smooth style, with espresso, dried currant, cedary oak, anise and loamy earth, ending with a long, tannic finish that offers notes of dried herb, sage and black tea. Best from 2014 through 2024.—*J.L.*

LA SIRENA

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2009
92 points | \$150 | NA cases made | Red

Marked by rich, creamy mocha and vanilla-laced oak, this glides across the palate, offering vivid blueberry, anise, cedar and spice notes. Finishes gracefully, with fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2022.—*J.L.*

THE PRISONER

Napa Valley 2011
92 points | \$38 | 68,000 cases made | Red

Deep, jammed with fruit character, this ripe version offers plenty of new oak, revealing a rich texture and zesty flavors of smoky licorice, blackberry cobbler and cracked pepper. Drink now through 2019.—*T.F.*

TOR

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Anniversary Cuvée 2010
92 points | \$150 | 150 cases made | Red

The aromatics are teasing, the flavors more reserved. Still, there's no denying the intensity and density of the blackberry, spice and red and black licorice notes at the core. Ends with assertive tannins and should reward with cellaring. Best from 2014 through 2024.—*J.L.*

OREGON

DOMAINE SERENE

Chardonnay Dundee Hills Clos du Soleil Vineyard
Dijon Clones 2010
92 points | \$65 | 120 cases made | White

Fresh, vibrant and beautifully focused, offering green apple and ripe pear flavors on a sleek frame, persisting on the lively, cream-tinged finish. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*

ET FILLE

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Kalita Vineyard 2010
92 points | \$42 | 245 cases made | Red

Supple, expressive and distinctive, balancing cherry, currant, anise and black pepper flavors that play easily against light, refined tannins. The finish lingers, offering a lift of acidity. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

SINEANN

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District
Resonance Vineyard 2011
92 points | \$48 | 425 cases made | Red

Fresh and ripe, brimming with dark berry flavors that play against hints of loamy earth and black tea as the finely tannic finish lingers. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*

DOMAINE SERENE

Chardonnay Dundee Hills Etoile Vineyard
Dijon Clones 2010
91 points | \$65 | 250 cases made | White

Vibrant, tangy and laced with lime-tinged acidity that plays against expressive green apple and quince flavors. Shows intensity and deft balance. Best from 2014 through 2018.—*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.

RAYMOND

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Generations 2009
95 points | \$100 | 1,000 cases made | Red

Shows striking intensity, density, focus and layers of flavor, with tiers of mocha, blackberry, mineral, black licorice and melted chocolate. The finish sails on, retaining focus and persistence. Drink now through 2023. *From California.—J.L.*

BEAU VIGNE

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2009
94 points | \$100 | 260 cases made | Red

Rich and layered, yet graceful and elegant, this offers supple mocha, blackberry, espresso, black licorice, and a kirschlike burst of cherry on the finish. Drink now through 2022. *From California.—J.L.*

BERINGER

Cabernet Sauvignon Knights Valley Reserve 2010
94 points | \$60 | 5,000 cases made | Red

Strikingly rich and layered, this is beautifully balanced, elegant and graceful, offering a tremendous mix of blackberry, mocha, melted black licorice and currant, ending with firm, grainy tannins. The push of ripe fruit is long and persistent. Drink now through 2022. *From California.—J.L.*

CARTER

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley
Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard The Three Kings 2010
94 points | \$135 | 112 cases made | Red

Deftly handled, this packs a potent mix of extracted fruit, showing tiers of blackberry, anise, crushed rock, mocha and espresso, all supported by rich tannins. Exciting to drink. Best from 2014 through 2024. *From California.—J.L.*

CELANI FAMILY

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Ardore 2009
94 points | \$195 | 300 cases made | Red

The cedar, lead pencil, melted licorice and dried currant flavors give this a complex range of flavors. Firm and well-built, offering an impressive finish where the flavors accelerate while maintaining focus. Drink now through 2022. *From California.—J.L.*

COUP DE FOUDRE

37.2 Cuvee Napa Valley 2010
94 points | \$75 | 350 cases made | Red

Balances power and finesse, offering aromas of currant and violet that open to rich yet densely packed flavors of blackberry, olive and loam. The tight finish of tannins suggest a long life. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2015 through 2021. *From California.—T.F.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 17 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 ten 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).

Tim Fish Senior editor, Napa
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2001. Tasting beat: California

James Laube Senior editor, Napa
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1981. Tasting beat: California

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Austria, Germany, Greece, Portugal, southern France

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Spain

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: Australia, Oregon, Washington

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 2005. Tasting beat: Argentina, Chile, Italy

MaryAnn Worobiec Senior editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: California, New Zealand

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