

Wine Spectator Insider

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FRANCOPHILES ARE IN FOR A TREAT with this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, which shows off the fine reds and whites of Châteauneuf-du-Pape alongside the elegant, silky whites of Alsace, many from Grands Crus.

From the Rhône, look for the stylings of Roger Sabon & Fils, Domaine de la Janasse, Chante Cigale and Le Vieux Donjon. Up in Alsace there are lovely examples of Riesling, Pinot Gris and Gewürztraminer from Zind-Humbrecht, Emile Beyer, Marcel Deiss, M. Chapoutier and more. Don't miss the dozen wines in this report at \$40 or less, and check out the four Hot Wines on page 4.

FRANCE Alsace

ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Gewürztraminer Alsace Grand Cru
Gueberschwihr Goldert 2011

93 points | \$76 | 45 cases imported | White

Racy acidity drives this rich, creamy and honeyed white, offering a zesty core of ground spice and mineral layered with flavors of ripe melon, lychee, glazed apricot and orange sorbet. The mouthwatering finish delivers lasting notes of candied pink grapefruit zest and fresh ginger. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Gewürztraminer Alsace Turckheim Heimbourg 2011

93 points | \$56 | 45 cases imported | White

Light, with a fine, silky texture, packed with layers of ripe apricot, blood orange, candied pink grapefruit zest, pickled ginger and ground anise. Vibrant acidity imparts focus through the lasting, mineral-driven finish. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

EMILE BEYER

Gewürztraminer Alsace Grand Cru Pfersigberg 2011

92 points | \$50 | 300 cases made | White

There's lovely balance to this rich version, off-dry and lightly mouthcoating, featuring lively, tangy acidity. The smoky, mineral-tinged undertow supports flavors of peach pie, mango lassi and a pleasantly bitter hint of grapefruit zest that persists on the finish. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

PAUL BLANCK

Pinot Gris Alsace Patergarten 2011

92 points | \$30 | 500 cases made | White

Refined and silky, with smoke and mineral notes underscoring the juicy flavors of dried papaya and apricot, anise, beeswax and lemon preserves. The lasting finish echoes a note of zesty ground spice. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

MARCEL DEISS

Alsace Grand Cru Mambourg 2009

92 points | \$110 | 300 cases made | White

Aromatic, with smoke, straw and toasted nut notes, this finely cut white offers layers of apple tarte Tatin, white peach, lemon curd and honey, underscored by zesty minerality and enlivened by racy acidity. Rich, yet very elegant overall. Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Beurot. Drink now through 2025.—A.N.

MARCEL DEISS

Gewürztraminer Alsace 2010

92 points | \$30 | 750 cases made | White

Finely balanced, this is lush and lightly mouthcoating without being weighty. Well-cut acidity keeps this lithe, structuring the flavors of baked peach, blood orange, candied pink grapefruit zest, crystallized honey and lychee, with a lasting smoke- and mineral-tinged finish. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

MARCEL DEISS

Riesling Alsace 2011

92 points | \$30 | 900 cases made | White

Bright and juicy, featuring lovely balance and flavors of spiced plum and apple fruit, cantaloupe, apple blossom and honey, with a streak of minerality pushing through to the creamy finish. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

FRANÇOIS & PHILIPPE EHRHART

Riesling Alsace Grand Cru Hengst 2010

92 points | \$33 | 100 cases imported | White

Pure notes of apricot, yellow plum and pineapple lead the way in this well-balanced white, backed by finely tuned acidity and accents of dried herb, candied lemon zest, wax and crystallized honey. Silky, with a lasting touch of minerality on the finish. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Gewürztraminer Alsace Calcaire 2011

92 points | \$36 | 120 cases imported | White

Poised and elegant, this offers refined acidity deftly meshed with flavors of ripe green melon, papaya, grapefruit granita, Thai basil, white peach and lychee. A spicy, mineral-tinged undertow builds on the finish. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Gewürztraminer Alsace Turckheim 2011

92 points | \$48 | 80 cases imported | White

Rich and creamy, with zesty acidity backing honeyed notes of glazed apricot, mandarin orange, pink grapefruit candy, piecrust and ground ginger. Lightly smoky, featuring a mineral-driven finish. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Pinot Gris Alsace Thann 2011

92 points | \$56 | 100 cases imported | White

A base note of smoky minerality and vibrant acidity balances this rich, silky white, offering finely layered fruit flavors of dried papaya, candied orange peel and glazed apricot. Zesty ground ginger, white pepper and anise elements sing out on the finish. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Pinot Gris Alsace Wintzenheim Rotenberg 2011

92 points | \$54 | 30 cases imported | White

A well-cut, mineral-driven white, featuring a stony undertow and subtle flavors of crunchy white peach, tangerine peel and apple, with hints of piecrust, honey and blanched almond. Tightly knit and mouthwatering, presenting a long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

EMILE BEYER

Gewürztraminer Alsace Tradition 2012

91 points | \$22 | 1,500 cases made | White

A finely balanced version, featuring lush and creamy flavors of ripe melon, glazed apricot and strawberry fruit, layered with accents of Thai basil, lime zest, honey and pickled ginger, with juicy, well-meshed acidity. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

PAUL BLANCK

Pinot Gris Alsace 2011

91 points | \$25 | 3,333 cases made | White

Shows the waxy side of Pinot Gris, with accents of honeycomb, lemon wax, chamomile and almond skin lacing flavors of dried papaya and fruit cake. Well-balanced, showing plenty of acidity and stony minerality. Drink now through 2020.—A.N.

PAUL BLANCK

Riesling Alsace 2012

91 points | \$20 | 4,000 cases made | White

Lively and expressive, featuring floral and ground spice notes, this open-knit version shows a fine mesh of bright acidity, saline minerality and flavors of ripe Anjou pear, apricot, blanched almond and lemon preserves. Drink now through 2022.—A.N.

M. CHAPOUTIER

Riesling Alsace Lieu-Dit Buehl Schieferkopf 2011

91 points | \$48 | 112 cases imported | White

Creamy, with a base of minerality driving the subtle flavors of persimmon, ground spice, blanched almond and star fruit to a long, finely textured finish. Drink now through 2021.—A.N.

M. CHAPOUTIER

Riesling Alsace Lieu-Dit Fels Schieferkopf 2011

91 points | \$48 | 112 cases imported | White

Elegant and appealing, offering fine balance and mouthwatering acidity, this delivers well-layered notes of subtle star fruit, white peach, honeycomb, lemon preserves and blanched almond, with a lingering finish. Drink now through 2023.—A.N.

MURÉ

Pinot Gris Alsace Signature 2011

91 points | \$24 | 100 cases imported | White

Finely knit layers of dried apricot, kumquat, beeswax and chamomile mix with delicate acidity and a vein of saline minerality in this elegant, deftly meshed white. Lightly smoky, with a lasting finish. Drink now through 2021.—A.N.

ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Gewürztraminer Alsace 2012

91 points | \$27 | 1,400 cases imported | White

Dry and focused, this mineral-driven version offers lots of ground white pepper and ginger notes, with an open-knit mesh of crunchy apricot, lychee, grapefruit zest and melon rind. Drink now through 2020.—A.N.

FRANCE

Southern Rhône / Châteauneuf-du-Pape

ROGER SABON & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prestige 2011

93 points | \$80 | 196 cases imported | Red

Rock solid, with dark plum, fig and boysenberry fruit at the core, lined with perfumy notes of roasted bay, chestnut and black tea. Ample grip lies underneath. Best from 2015 through 2030.—*J.M.*

ROGER SABON & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Renaissance 2012

93 points | \$55 | 28 cases imported | White

Features creamy and stony notes, with melon, peach and chamomile at the core, lined with blanched almond and salted butter flavors. Drink now through 2015.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2012

92 points | \$64 | 20 cases imported | White

Features pretty brioche, creamed pear and Cavaillon melon notes, with a caressing feel through the lengthy finish. Drink now.—*J.M.*

VIGNOBLES MOUSSET-BARROT

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Château Jas de Bressy 2010

92 points | \$45 | 112 cases imported | Red

Sleek, vibrant raspberry and blackberry fruit courses along here, studded with licorice snap, fruitcake and orange marmalade notes. Leaves a juicy feel on the finish. Drink now through 2027.—*J.M.*

CHANTE CIGALE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2010

91 points | \$49 | 3,000 cases imported | Red

Fleshy, with plum compote and blackberry pâte de fruit flavors backed by fruitcake and red licorice notes. Shows good intensity, offering a sleek feel. Best from 2014 through 2025.—*J.M.*

DIFFONTY & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Château Sixtine 2011

91 points | \$59 | 3,500 cases made | Red

Driven by a bright, juicy core of raspberry and blackberry coulis notes, this features accents of licorice snap and roasted apple wood. Good briary grip lines the finish. Drink now through 2026.—*J.M.*

DIFFONTY & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Château Sixtine 2012

91 points | \$59 | 180 cases made | White

Bright plantain, Cavaillon melon and salted butter aromas and flavors course along here, followed by a long creamy finish that shows a hint of macadamia nut. A flattering style. Drink now.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DU GALET DES PAPES

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2010

91 points | \$45 | 833 cases made | Red

Delivers cherry sauce and linzer torte flavors, pumping along, backed by red licorice and fruitcake notes. Presents a polished finish, with a hint of apple wood. Best from 2014 through 2024.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE GIULIANI

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2010

91 points | \$32 | 2,800 cases made | Red

Features a sappy feel, with dark kirsch, blackberry and loganberry fruit, lined with anise, graphite and fruitcake notes. The spicy finish shows good underlying grip. Best from 2014 through 2024.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2011

91 points | \$62 | 325 cases imported | Red

The notes of kirsch, plum preserves and bitter cherry are nicely layered in this version, with flecks of apple wood, licorice and iron on the finish. Displays good grip. Drink now through 2024.—*J.M.*

PAUL JOURDAN

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Papale 2010

91 points | \$43 | 500 cases imported | Red

The steeped plum, cassis and blackberry paste flavors are framed by a strong graphite note, while anise and black tea fill in on the finish. Drink now through 2024.—*J.M.*

PAUL JOURDAN

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réserve des Olivers 2010

91 points | \$45 | 410 cases imported | Red

Juicy cassis and linzer torte notes are backed by toasted anise and melted red licorice accents. A sappy edge hangs on the finish. Best from 2014 through 2022.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE PATRICE MAGNI

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2011

91 points | \$50 | 375 cases made | Red

Shows excellent depth and polished layers of blackberry, cassis and crushed cherry fruit, lined with blood orange, singed anise and fruitcake. Silky finish. Best from 2014 through 2025.—*J.M.*

LE VIEUX DONJON

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2011

91 points | \$67 | 5,000 cases made | Red

A roasted juniper note leads the way, with brick dust and tobacco accents lining the core of steeped damson plum and blackberry fruit. Minerally finish. Drink now through 2026.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DU VIEUX LAZARET

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2010

91 points | \$37 | 4,000 cases imported | Red

Lush and gorgeously ripe, with a beam of linzer torte and cassis coursing along, lined with blood orange, singed apple wood and bergamot notes. Best from 2014 through 2024.—*J.M.*

HOT WINES

These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors' most recent tastings, published exclusively in *Wine Spectator Insider*. They are high-scoring wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

ROGER SABON & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Secret des Sabon 2011
95 points | \$230 | 100 cases imported | Red

Features linzer torte, boysenberry and blueberry coulis flavors allied to ample, silky and seamless structure and backed by a gorgeously perfumy finish of black tea and incense. Offers a beguiling, Pinot Noir-like profile, with lovely length and mouthfeel. Best from 2015 through 2030. *From France.—J.M.*

ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Gewürztraminer Alsace Hunawihr Clos Windsbuhl 2011
94 points | \$79 | 45 cases imported | White

Beautifully balanced and racy, with searing acidity providing a firm backbone for the finely knit flavors of papaya, apricot tart, orange peel, aromatic smoke, anise and ground cardamom. Offers a lightly honeyed, lasting finish that echoes the fruit character. Drink now through 2025. *From France.—A.N.*

ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Pinot Gris Alsace Grand Cru Rangen de Thann
Clos St.-Urbain 2011
94 points | \$105 | 60 cases imported | White

A well-cut, dry version, with a stony mineral undertow and aromatic hints of rose petal, lychee and fresh ground pink peppercorn accenting the finely knit flavors of melon, white peach, kumquat and blanched almond. Accents of ground spice echo on the lasting finish. Drink now through 2028. *From France.—A.N.*

ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Pinot Gris Alsace Hunawihr Clos Windsbuhl 2011
94 points | \$64 | 40 cases imported | White

There's lovely balance and focus to this creamy and mouthwatering white, with a waxy edge to the ripe flavors of baked peach, mango chutney, lemon meringue pie, smoke and crystallized honey. Dried herb and ground spice notes add to the aromatic profile, lingering on the long, rich finish. Drink now through 2028. *From France.—A.N.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

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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).

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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