

# Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

**INTENSE SYRAH FROM THE RHÔNE AND SEAMLESS PINOT NOIR FROM OREGON** share the spotlight in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, backed by a strong showing from 2013 California Cabernet Sauvignon and delectable reds and whites from Australia. This is a report of wines that have most excited our editors in recent tastings.

From Cornas, A. Clape and Domaine du Coulet deliver powerful reds built to age. The Ribbon Ridge appellation in Oregon fields two classic versions from Eminent Domaine and Beaux Frères. Napa Cab heavy-hitters Carter, Continuum, Ovid and others testify to an exceptional vintage in the region. And Australian achievers Bindi, Henschke and Yalumba impress with Burgundy grapes grown Down Under. Seven wines here are rated 90-plus points and cost \$40 or less, and a 96-pointer at \$55 represents tremendous value. The six hot wines are on page 4.

## AUSTRALIA

### BINDI

**Pinot Noir Victoria Original Vineyard 2014**  
**93 points | \$110 | 20 cases imported | Red**

Creamy and supple tannins form an elegant backdrop to the black licorice-scented blackberry and blueberry core, with dried lavender and fresh earth notes. The elements mingle harmoniously on the long finish. Drink now through 2026.—*M.W.*

### BINDI

**Chardonnay Victoria Kostas Rind 2014**  
**92 points | \$70 | 56 cases imported | White**

Manages to be both delicate and powerful, fresh and vibrant. The lime and melon flavors have an appealing crisp edge, while toast and marmalade accents linger alongside fragrant lemon verbena and grapefruit zest details. Drink now through 2020.—*M.W.*

### BINDI

**Chardonnay Victoria Quartz 2014**  
**92 points | \$120 | 20 cases imported | White**

Intense apricot and melon flavors have a note of Key lime tanginess, with honeysuckle and spice adding dimension and aroma. The flavors are rich and bold, but the body is light, elegant and crisp. Drink now through 2020.—*M.W.*

### HENSCHKE

**Chardonnay Adelaide Hills Croft 2015**  
**92 points | \$55 | 40 cases imported | White**

Starts off with crisp and bright Key lime, green apple and lemon zest flavors, with tangy acidity. Crescendos with complex hints of honeysuckle, lemon thyme, mineral and spice on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*M.W.*

### TOLPUDDLE

**Pinot Noir Coal River Valley 2014**  
**92 points | \$75 | 100 cases imported | Red**

Graceful, with wild strawberry, cedar, dried sage and earthy truffle notes that play against a backdrop of creamy, supple tannins. The spicy finish lingers. Drink now through 2026.—*M.W.*

### VASSE FELIX

**Chardonnay Margaret River Filius 2015**  
**92 points | \$27 | 500 cases imported | White**

Focused and intense, this offers a burst of fresh mango and lime juice on a sleek and polished frame. Shows plenty of energy on the long finish. Drink now through 2022.—*M.W.*

## EMINENT DOMAINE

Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge 2014

**93 points | \$44 | 690 cases made | Red**

Focused, expressive and layered with currant, plum, mineral and wet earth flavors that play against fine tannins and dance through the open-frame finish. Has presence, depth and persistence. Best from 2018 through 2024.—*H.S.*

## NICOLAS-JAY

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Bishop Creek 2014

**93 points | \$125 | 85 cases made | Red**

Lithe, focused and distinctive, with pear overtones to the cherry and floral flavors, coming together with harmony and point as the finish lingers effusively. Drink now through 2024.—*H.S.*

## WALTER SCOTT

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Seven Springs 2014

**93 points | \$55 | 125 cases made | Red**

Taut, focused and layered with red berry, cherry, cinnamon, wet stone and mineral notes that come together harmoniously on the impressively long and expressive finish. Best from 2018 through 2024.—*H.S.*

## WALTER SCOTT

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Cuvée Ruth 2014

**93 points | \$40 | 350 cases made | Red**

Bright and lively, offering a cascade of pretty strawberry, raspberry, rose petal and white pepper flavors that come together harmoniously against powdery tannins on the finish. Drink now through 2024.—*H.S.*

## MAISON L'ENVOYÉ

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley The Attaché 2014

**92 points | \$40 | 1,000 cases made | Red**

Light and savory, with meaty, peppery overtones to the cherry and floral flavors, finishing gracefully. Has layers of complexity and terrific persistence. Best from 2018 through 2022.—*H.S.*

## ST. INNOCENT

Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton District Shea Vineyard 2014

**92 points | \$55 | 946 cases made | Red**

Bright and snappy, with raspberry, cherry and smoky, mineral notes coming together with impressive focus, broadening out into a long and generous finish. Has presence and depth. Best from 2017 through 2024.—*H.S.*

## BEAUX FRÈRES

Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2014

**91 points | \$60 | 2,453 cases made | Red**

Bright and tangy, with raspberry and cherry flavors that gain momentum as they push against fine tannins into a long and expressive finish. Best from 2018 through 2024.—*H.S.*

## CARABELLA

Chardonnay Chehalem Mountains Dijon 76 2014

**91 points | \$35 | 200 cases made | White**

Lithe and expressive, with a generous range of peach-accented apple and grapefruit flavors, lingering easily on the lively finish. Drink now through 2021.—*H.S.*

## KING ESTATE

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Roserock 2013

**91 points | \$55 | 200 cases made | Red**

Lithe and expressive, this vital style shows polish to the deftly balanced frame surrounding flavors of raspberry, orange peel, white tea and cream, persisting into a vital finish. Drink now through 2021.—*H.S.*

## NICOLAS-JAY

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Nysa 2014

**91 points | \$95 | 45 cases made | Red**

Sleek and refreshing, open-textured and appealing, with raspberry and cherry flavors dancing deftly past powdery tannins on the elegant finish. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

## OWEN ROE

Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Durant Vineyard 2014

**91 points | \$42 | 345 cases made | Red**

Light, tangy and polished, with licorice-accented raspberry, blueberry and orange peel flavors that glide into an expressive finish. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

## ST. INNOCENT

Pinot Noir McMinnville Momtazi Vineyard 2014

**91 points | \$36 | 1,446 cases made | Red**

Bright and tangy, with a meaty edge to the raspberry and boysenberry flavors, finishing with sharp focus. Drink now through 2024.—*H.S.*

## STOLLER

Chardonnay Dundee Hills Reserve 2014

**91 points | \$35 | 1,045 cases made | White**

Taut and focused, opening with waxy, spicy, mineral-rich flavors that course through the grapefruit and pineapple notes on a generous frame, broadening out on the finish. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

## WALTER SCOTT

Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Temperance Hill 2014

**91 points | \$45 | 150 cases made | Red**

Lithe, lively and supple, with pretty raspberry and strawberry flavors that retain their freshness. The finish dances against lightly nubby tannins. Best from 2018 through 2024.—*H.S.*