

Wine Spectator Insider

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STUNNING REDS, UP TO 98 POINTS, shine in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*, with the 2010 vintage of Brunello showing tremendous promise. California and Australia, meanwhile, chime in with elegant whites. This report showcases the most exciting wines our editors have recently discovered in their tastings.

A whopping 20 Brunellos in this report clock in at a classic-scoring 95 points or higher, with Altesino, Donatella Cinelli Colombini, Valdicava, Casanova di Neri, Il Poggione and Siro Pacenti all in the mix. For fans of New World whites, we've got Chardonnays, most of them single-vineyard, from Shibumi Knoll, Saxon Brown, Dehlinger, Failla and, in Australia, Henschke. Don't miss the six classic Hot Wines on page 4.

AUSTRALIA

CLOUDBURST

Chardonnay Margaret River 2013

93 points | \$200 | 240 cases made | White

Supple, silky and complex, layering the pear, pineapple, floral and spice flavors onto a generous, open-textured frame, coming together smoothly and harmoniously on the long, detailed finish. Drink now through 2022.—*H.S.*

GIANT STEPS

Chardonnay Yarra Valley Sexton Vineyard 2013

92 points | \$42 | 150 cases imported | White

Bright, tangy, focused and complex, layering pear, floral, mint and green tea flavors on a sleek frame. The finish lingers effortlessly against lacy acidity. Drink now through 2021.—*H.S.*

HENSCHKE

Chardonnay Adelaide Hills Croft 2013

92 points | \$50 | 20 cases imported | White

Open-textured, refined and expressive, with pear, nectarine, green guava and white pepper flavors, finishing with a refreshing sense of deftness. Has presence, and the finish gains momentum with each sip. Drink now through 2023.—*H.S.*

ROBERT OATLEY

Chardonnay Margaret River Finisterre 2013

92 points | \$33 | 450 cases imported | White

Fresh and vital, with tangy, citrusy acidity set against pineapple-accented pear flavors, lingering effortlessly on the open-weave finish. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

VOYAGER ESTATE

Chardonnay Margaret River 2010

92 points | \$48 | 500 cases imported | White

Smooth and silky, rich in texture, with pineapple, pear and floral flavors in abundance, finishing with finesse and lemony intensity. Drink now through 2018.—*H.S.*

BROKENWOOD

Sémillon Hunter Valley Oakey Creek

Vineyard Selection 2008

91 points | \$32 | 100 cases imported | White

Light and expressive, with a layer of lanolin and wax notes embracing the lime, green apple and floral flavors at the center. Has presence and room to grow. Drink now through 2028.—*H.S.*

GROSSET

Chardonnay Adelaide Hills Piccadilly 2012

91 points | \$60 | 80 cases imported | White

Fresh and inviting, layered with pear, peach and spice flavors, hinting at green tea notes as the finish opens. Drink now through 2020.—*H.S.*

MR. RIGGS

Chardonnay Adelaide Hills Cold Chalk 2012
91 points | \$28 | 115 cases imported | White

Fresh and tangy, with lemon and spice flavors on an open-textured frame, lingering on the expressive finish. Refreshing, and balanced to age. Drink now through 2019.—H.S.

CALIFORNIA

SAXON BROWN

Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Durell Vineyard 2012
94 points | \$58 | 105 cases made | White

Ultrarich and concentrated, presenting a tight beam of honey-laced apricot, fig and honeydew notes that offer power, persistence and depth, gliding along gracefully, turning elegant and nuanced. Drink now.—J.L.

DEHLINGER

Chardonnay Russian River Valley Un-Filtered 2012
92 points | \$40 | 1,700 cases made | White

A dose of toasty, spicy oak gives the rich pear fruit a touch of butterscotch. Bold and focused, with a long, persistent finish. Drink now through 2021.—J.L.

FAILLA

Chardonnay Fort Ross-Seaview Estate Vineyard 2013
92 points | \$44 | 345 cases made | White

A citrusy style, with spicy green apple, pear and melon notes amid the ripe fig and honeysuckle details. Gains richness and depth, and should benefit from some cellar time. Long and persistent on the finish. Drink now.—J.L.

LYNMAR

Chardonnay Russian River Valley La Sereinité 2012
92 points | \$70 | 590 cases made | White

Perfumed aromas of spicy, toasty oak, vivid fruit and flowers make a compelling combination. The green apple, pear, citrus and melon flavors are well-defined and fold together nicely, gaining depth and length on the finish. Drink now through 2020.—J.L.

LYNMAR

Chardonnay Russian River Valley Susanna's Vineyard 2012
92 points | \$55 | 330 cases made | White

Pure and focused, with vibrant pear, melon, apple and citrus notes, shaded by light toasty oak, gaining depth and length. Ends with a kiss of butterscotch. Drink now.—J.L.

ROBERT YOUNG

Chardonnay Alexander Valley 2012
92 points | \$42 | 1,386 cases made | White

A bold, rich, expressive style that delivers intense pear, fig, honeysuckle and creamy, jazzy oak in a full-bodied, graceful style that sails along, revealing subtle nuances on the finish. Drink now.—J.L.

LAFOND

Chardonnay Sta. Rita Hills Lafond Vineyard
Stainless Steel 2012
91 points | \$32 | 169 cases made | White

Delivers a juicy beam of grapefruit, citrus-infused green apple, honeydew and subtle tropical fruit notes, maintaining focus and persistence through the long, mouthwatering finish. Drink now.—J.L.

ITALY

Brunello di Montalcino

POGGIO SALVI

Brunello di Montalcino Pomonal 2010
96 points | \$90 | 111 cases made | Red

A classy, harmonious red, elegant and intensely flavored, with strawberry, cherry, currant, mineral and tobacco notes. The tannins are fierce, yet this is precisely balanced, featuring fruit, mineral, tar and spice accents that linger on the long, detailed finish. Best from 2019 through 2036.—B.S.

PIEVE SANTA RESTITUTA

Brunello di Montalcino Sugarille 2010
96 points | \$190 | 1,500 cases made | Red

The core of black cherry and plum is shaded by vanilla, coconut and sweet spice notes in this intensely flavored yet fluid red. Long and beautifully integrated at this young stage, with tobacco, leather and mineral details emerging on the aftertaste. Needs time. Best from 2019 through 2036.—B.S.

CASANOVA DI NERI

Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Nuova 2010
95 points | \$100 | 1,150 cases imported | Red

Beautiful aromas of cherry, plum, tar and black pepper mesh with an elegant profile in this fresh, focused red. Shows plenty of cherry fruit on the palate, with spice and tobacco accents. The structure lends support and creates harmony. Best from 2017 through 2030.—B.S.

IL POGGIONE

Brunello di Montalcino 2010
95 points | \$85 | 3,000 cases imported | Red

Rich, with excellent density, ripe cherry and plum fruit, and a well-integrated structure. Licorice, earth and tobacco notes add depth while this cruises to a long, tobacco- and mineral-tinged finish. Shows balance and grip. Best from 2018 through 2033.—B.S.

LA FIORITA

Brunello di Montalcino 2010
95 points | \$70 | 700 cases imported | Red

Offers terrific aromas of strawberry, currant and medicinal herbs, revealing hints of anise, tobacco and earth, all backed by a firm, vibrant structure. Stays focused and long, with a succulent finish. Best from 2019 through 2036.—B.S.

LA COLOMBINA

Brunello di Montalcino 2010

95 points | \$50 | 400 cases imported | Red

This rich version is saturated with cherry, plum, spice and earth flavors. The tannins are dense and the vibrant acidity keeps this focused and long. Offers a fine mix of power and finesse, presenting a mineral element on the finish. Best from 2018 through 2035.—*B.S.*

PALAZZO

Brunello di Montalcino 2010

95 points | \$70 | 550 cases imported | Red

Ripe and juicy, boasting cherry, raspberry, spice and tobacco flavors, accented by an iron note. This stays taut and focused on the finish. Racy and balanced. Best from 2019 through 2035.—*B.S.*

SAN FELICE

Brunello di Montalcino Campogiovanni 2010

95 points | \$60 | 7,083 cases made | Red

Black cherry, black currant, cedar and tobacco flavors highlight this firm, dense red. Has the fruit, structure and harmony to develop, along with a lingering wild herb and mineral aftertaste. Juicy finish. Best from 2018 through 2033.—*B.S.*

LA FORTUNA

Brunello di Montalcino 2010

95 points | \$60 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Saturated with cherry, raspberry, spice and tobacco aromas and flavors, this strikes a balanced between the supple texture, succulent acidity and refined yet gripping tannins. Really sings on the lingering finish. Best from 2019 through 2035.—*B.S.*

SAN FILIPPO

Brunello di Montalcino Le Lucére 2010

95 points | \$70 | 400 cases imported | Red

Fresh cherry and berry flavors lead to leather, tobacco and herbal notes in this focused, balanced red. Though firmly structured, everything is in the right proportions here, with a long aftertaste. Best from 2019 through 2034.—*B.S.*

LE RAGNAIE

Brunello di Montalcino Fornace 2010

95 points | \$125 | 75 cases imported | Red

Round and smooth, with cherry and strawberry flavors supported by dense, ripe tannins. There's sweetness midpalate and a mix of savory and spicy elements, followed by firm grip on the lingering aftertaste. Best from 2017 through 2032.—*B.S.*

LIVIO SASSETTI

Brunello di Montalcino Pertimali 2010

95 points | \$55 | 1,800 cases imported | Red

This has depth and complexity, from the cherry and menthol notes to the earth and mineral elements. Tightly wound, with a core of sweet fruit offsetting the burly tannins. This red lingers on the finish, showing fine equilibrium and the potential to develop. Best from 2019 through 2035.—*B.S.*

IL MARRONETO

Brunello di Montalcino Madonna delle Grazie 2010

95 points | \$109 | 100 cases imported | Red

Bright and pure, offering cherry, raspberry, spice and underbrush flavors. Features ample tannins, ripe and mouthcoating, but the beam of acidity drives the fruit, mineral and spice flavors to a lingering conclusion. Combines power and finesse. Best from 2018 through 2035.—*B.S.*

FATTOI

Brunello di Montalcino 2010

95 points | \$70 | 2,000 cases made | Red

Iron and graphite aromas accent the cherry and raspberry fruit in this supple, saline red, beautifully balanced and complex, with a lingering mineral finish. Hints of licorice and tobacco complete the flavor spectrum. Generous and approachable, but there is grip, too. Best from 2017 through 2032.—*B.S.*

SIRO PACENTI

Brunello di Montalcino PS Vecchie Vigne 2010

95 points | \$85 | 2,500 cases made | Red

This brooding version is lean and sinewy in profile, with dusty, chewy tannins gripping the cherry and strawberry fruit. Comes around with air, showing more sweetness and balance. Best from 2019 through 2033.—*B.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 wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

ALTESINO

Brunello di Montalcino Montosoli 2010
98 points | \$125 | 250 cases imported | Red

A stunning red, featuring peony, strawberry, cherry and mineral flavors, accented by notes of wild herbs. Intense and deep, with great purity and elegance, a firmly wrought structure and a long finish. The harmony between fruit, tannins and acidity should allow this to age beautifully. Best from 2019 through 2036. *From Italy.—B.S.*

DONATELLA CINELLI COLOMBINI

Brunello di Montalcino Progetto Prime Donne 2010
96 points | \$65 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Features terrific fruit, with forthcoming aromas and flavors of cherry, raspberry and plum, accented by licorice, leather and tobacco details that add depth. Well-structured, but stays balanced and precise, adding mineral and woody elements on the finish. Excellent length. Best from 2019 through 2035. *From Italy.—B.S.*

VILLA I CIPRESSI

Brunello di Montalcino Zebras 2010
96 points | \$90 | 200 cases imported | Red

Smells like a red Burgundy, featuring cherry, currant, earth and floral aromas and flavors. Elegant and firm, with fine depth and a saline, mineral finish. Despite their youthful grip on the finish for now, the tannins are well-integrated. Best from 2019 through 2035. *From Italy.—B.S.*

VALDICAVA

Brunello di Montalcino 2010
96 points | \$129 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Effusive aromas of incense, green olive, sweet strawberry and cherry, licorice and leather mark this structured version. The tannins are on the beefy side, but this finishes long, with enough fruit and spice for balance. Best from 2018 through 2032. *From Italy.—B.S.*

LA SERENA

Brunello di Montalcino 2010
96 points | \$60 | 1,000 cases imported | Red

Mint and eucalyptus aromas give way to dried cherry and soy flavors in this firmly tannic Brunello. Sweetness and acidity drive the long finish of fruit, spice and mineral. Should be a great bottle in time. Best from 2019 through 2036. *From Italy.—B.S.*

SHIBUMI KNOLL

Chardonnay Russian River Valley
Buena Tierra Vineyard 2012
96 points | \$70 | 325 cases made | White

A dazzling effort, with striking purity, richness and focus, featuring a plump, silky texture that oozes with fresh fruit aromas and a deep core of rich pear, fig, honeydew melon and spice notes, ending with a burst of lip-smacking butterscotch hints. Drink now through 2021. *From California.—J.L.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 16 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 nine 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