

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

THIS WEEK'S *WINE SPECTATOR INSIDER* takes you to two of the most august wine regions of the Old World: Germany's Mosel, source of many of the world's finest Rieslings, and Italy's Langhe, home to the Nebbiolo reds that wear the Barolo badge. Eighteen Barolos reviewed by Bruce Sanderson in this report include gems from Piedmont heavyweights Bruno Giacosa, Luciano Sandrone and Gaja, while the 18 German auslese Rieslings, reviewed by Kim Marcus, are led by selections from Fritz Haag and Joh. Jos. Prüm. Three classic-scoring sweet and off-dry whites from the small plots that line the Mosel are joined by a 96-point Barolo in this week's Hot Wines section, on page 4.

GERMANY

JOH. JOS. PRÜM

Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Mosel Wehlener
Sonnenuhr 2009

96 points | \$111/375ml | NA cases made | White

Explosively fruity, rich and opulent, with loads of baked peach, apricot and pear flavors that are overlaid with concentrated notes of apple butter and spice. The long finish is filled with toffee and cream. Best from 2014 through 2038.—*K.M.*

JOH. JOS. PRÜM

Riesling Auslese Mosel Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2009

96 points | \$57 | NA cases made | White

Pure, precise and fresh-tasting, with an intense clarity to the apple, pear and tangerine flavors that feature notes of slate and vanilla. The crystalline finish is long, pure and precise, with hints of smoke and anise. Best from 2014 through 2040.—*K.M.*

FRITZ HAAG

Riesling Auslese Mosel Brauneberger
Juffer-Sonnenuhr 2009

95 points | \$59 | 200 cases made | White

This is powered by a jet pack of delicious fruitiness, including luscious lime sorbet and glazed apricot flavors that are sleek and seamless. The vibrant finish is zesty, ripe and spicy. Very creamy and seductive. Best from 2013 through 2038.—*K.M.*

JOH. JOS. PRÜM

Riesling Auslese Mosel Graacher Himmelreich 2009

95 points | \$51 | NA cases made | White

Vivid and pure-tasting, with a well-structured array of mineral, peach, citrus and savory spice notes that are tightly wound. Still, this is quite airy, especially on the impeccable finish of lime and nectarine. Best from 2015 through 2038.—*K.M.*

ST.-URBANS-HOF

Riesling Auslese Mosel Piesport Goldtröpfchen 2009

95 points | \$55 | 50 cases imported | White

Starts with ginger snap and glazed orange notes, followed by luscious red peach, apricot, flan and spice flavors. The long, elegant finish features lemon curd and savory notes, with a firm minerality. Pure and creamy. Best from 2015 through 2040.—*K.M.*

ROBERT EYMAEL (MÖNCHHOF)

Riesling Auslese Mosel Erdener Prälat 2009

94 points | \$45 | 150 cases made | White

Concentrated, pure and richly flavored, with an effusive mineral element to the vibrant golden apple, apricot and melon flavors, all supported by zesty acidity. Pear blossom and honey cream notes accent this as well, with a luscious finish of Key lime and spice. Best from 2015 through 2037.—*K.M.*

FRITZ HAAG

Riesling Auslese Mosel Brauneberger Juffer 2009
94 points | \$45 | 60 cases made | White

Unctuous, with lively, forward-tasting flavors of red peach, apricot and mango. Ethereal and elegant midpalate, with hints of savory herb and plenty of spice. The long, lush finish is quite creamy and light on its feet. Best from 2015 through 2035.—*K.M.*

REICHSGRAF VON KESSELSTATT

Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Mosel Scharzhofberger
No. 10 2009
94 points | \$63/375ml | 30 cases made | White

Rich and juicy, with tangerine, mango and red peach flavors that feature notes of lime and mineral. Powerful yet elegant, with a rich, cream- and spice-filled finish that's long and lush. Best from 2014 through 2038.—*K.M.*

JOH. JOS. PRÜM

Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Mosel Graacher
Himmelreich 2009
94 points | \$102/375ml | NA cases made | White

Concentrated peach, apricot and jellied citrus flavors are deep and rich, and this is intensely creamy midpalate, with plenty of anise-tinged smoke notes. The exotic finish of ripe pineapple is long and fruity. Best from 2013 through 2032.—*K.M.*

S.A. PRÜM

Riesling Auslese Mosel Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2009
94 points | \$40 | 60 cases imported | White

Silky and refined, with a rich, minerally essence to the green peach and apple flavors. Interesting notes of celery and braised scallion add complexity and richness. Finishes rich and well-spiced, with plenty of stony notes. Best from 2014 through 2032.—*K.M.*

DR. F. WEINS-PRÜM

Riesling Auslese Mosel Graacher Domprobst 2009
94 points | \$40 | 110 cases imported | White

Intense tropical fruit notes fill the aroma, followed by a flush of mango, guava and coconut flavors that are rich and pure. Shows precise balance and structure, with a fresh, vibrant finish of glazed citrus, clove and nutmeg. Best from 2015 through 2035.—*K.M.*

REINHOLD HAART

Riesling Auslese Mosel Piesport Goldtröpfchen 2009
93 points | \$75 | 50 cases made | White

Very creamy and lush, with concentrated baked apple and flan flavors that are joined by peach cobbler and glazed apricot notes. There's plenty of fresh acidity in this as well, with floral and slate notes on the finish. Best from 2015 through 2040.—*K.M.*

DR. F. WEINS-PRÜM

Riesling Auslese Mosel Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2009
93 points | \$45 | 110 cases made | White

Lush aromas and flavors of nectarine, melon, apricot and spice are flanked by firm slate and sea salt notes. The long, unctuous finish retains an elegant, open delicacy amid light cream and vanilla hints. Best from 2014 through 2030.—*K.M.*

DR. H. THANISCH (MÜLLER-BURGGRAEF)

Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Mosel Berncasteler Doctor 2009
92 points | \$55/375ml | 10 cases made | White

Plush, with an impressive clarity to the apricot and apple tart flavors, which feature tropical fruit and rich spicy notes. The long, creamy finish is filled with plenty of lemon cream notes. Best from 2014 through 2035.—*K.M.*

C.H. BERRES

Riesling Auslese Mosel Goldwingert 2009
91 points | \$45 | 40 cases made | White

Intense and minerally, with good cut to the blood orange and grapefruit flavors that are supported by plenty of firm acidity. The crystalline finish features notes of sea salt and lemon. Best from 2013 through 2020.—*K.M.*

ITALY Piedmont

LUCIANO SANDRONE

Barolo Cannubi Boschis 2006
95 points | \$165 | 300 cases imported | Red

Packing sweet cherry, plum and licorice flavors, this red picks up a salty, savory component midpalate. Fresh, bright and harmonious, with a slight chewiness in texture and a lingering mineral after-taste. Best from 2013 through 2030.—*B.S.*

GAJA

Langhe Sperss 2006
94 points | \$255 | 75 cases imported | Red

A rich, chewy red, with complex flavors of sandalwood, plum, bitter chocolate and roasted vanilla, all backed by a firm structure. Yet there's terrific balance, and this just needs time to integrate. Best from 2014 through 2035.—*B.S.*

AZELIA

Barolo Bricco Fiasco 2006
93 points | \$75 | 291 cases imported | Red

Mint and menthol aromas lead off, followed by plum, chocolate and tobacco flavors as this firm, muscular Barolo develops on the palate. There's plenty of sweetness to balance the structure, ending in a cascade of sweet fruit and spice. Best from 2014 through 2032.—*B.S.*

LUIGI EINAUDI

Barolo Costa Grimaldi 2006
93 points | \$99 | 541 cases made | Red

A masculine style, displaying tar, prune, black cherry and eucalyptus notes. The tannins emerge as this crosses the palate, expanding on the lingering, spice- and leather-filled finish. Be patient. Best from 2014 through 2032.—*B.S.*

GAJA

Langhe Conteisa 2006

93 points | \$215 | 100 cases imported | Red

Rich and supple, with a dusting of refined tannins providing the framework for plum, black cherry, chocolate and sweet spice aromas and flavors. Drinkable now, yet should improve over the next decade. Best from 2012 through 2030.—*B.S.*

GIUSEPPE MASCARELLO & FIGLIO

Barolo Monprivato 2006

93 points | \$110 | 1,830 cases made | Red

An elegant style, with a hint of wild herbs giving way to strawberry, eucalyptus, licorice and mineral. Though structured, this is deftly balanced, with a mouthwatering finish and a fine, savory aftertaste. Best from 2013 through 2030.—*B.S.*

ROBERTO VOERZIO

Barolo Brunate 2006

93 points | \$300 | 50 cases imported | Red

Very perfumed, this offers rose, cherry, plum and sandalwood aromas and flavors. Elegant and refined, with a lacy texture and a long, spice-filled aftertaste. Best from 2013 through 2028.—*B.S.*

CONTERNO FANTINO

Barolo Sorì Ginestra 2006

92 points | \$112 | 1,010 cases made | Red

A deep, powerful expression of dark chocolate, blackberry, tobacco and tar flavors, with a coating of dry tannins. This is a big, in-your-face kind of red, with a carefree swagger and time on its hands. Balanced on the tannic side. Best from 2014 through 2035.—*B.S.*

LUIGI EINAUDI

Barolo Nei Cannubi 2006

92 points | \$100 | 916 cases made | Red

There's a suppleness to this red that sits apart from the taut, sinewy tannins. Boasts cherry, strawberry, menthol and tobacco flavors, with a long, spicy finish. Just needs time. Best from 2013 through 2030.—*B.S.*

LUIGI EINAUDI

Barolo Terlo 2006

92 points | \$70 | 875 cases made | Red

Eucalyptus, mint, cherry and floral aromas and flavors abound in this suave Barolo. Though silky on the surface, there's an undertow of dusty tannins. It all comes together on the lingering, tobacco-tinged aftertaste. Best from 2013 through 2029.—*B.S.*

GIUSEPPE MASCARELLO & FIGLIO

Barolo Monprivato Cà d'Morissio Riserva 2003

92 points | \$360 | 250 cases made | Red

A broad-shouldered, ripe red, featuring plum, dried fig and tar notes, settling into a saline expression as this opens up on the finish. Chunky and rich, but with freshness and a silky side waiting to emerge. Best from 2013 through 2028.—*B.S.*

LUCIANO SANDRONE

Barolo Le Vigne 2006

92 points | \$155 | 300 cases imported | Red

Black cherry, plum, tar and licorice flavors are sweet and offset the firm structure in this red, which has a fine, spicy aftertaste. There's an almost lush texture, and though this is balanced, it needs time to come together. Best from 2014 through 2030.—*B.S.*

VIETTI

Barolo Castiglione 2006

92 points | \$45 | 1,200 cases imported | Red

A rich, round version, showing black cherry and plum notes up front, backed by dense tannins. Bright and linear in profile, with briar and eucalyptus accents playing out on the finish. Best from 2014 through 2033.—*B.S.*

VIETTI

Barolo Rocche 2006

92 points | \$150 | 110 cases imported | Red

This ripe red has all the components in the right proportions, bursting with sweet black cherry, plum and chocolate flavors that are backed by dense tannins. Needs time to integrate and develop aromatically. Best from 2014 through 2033.—*B.S.*

ROBERTO VOERZIO

Barolo Rocche dell'Annunziata Torriglione 2006

92 points | \$265 | 50 cases imported | Red

Sweet cherry and blackberry aromas and flavors take on added dimension, with licorice and menthol accents. Boasts a firm base of tannins that need to integrate, but overall this is balanced and long. Best from 2014 through 2032.—*B.S.*

ROBERTO VOERZIO

Barolo Cerequio 2006

91 points | \$265 | 75 cases imported | Red

An elegant 2006, this offers aromas of sandalwood, tobacco and plum, with spice flavors. Still firm on the finish, where the tannins are most prominent, with a touch of licorice. Drink now through 2028.—*B.S.*

CONTERNO FANTINO

Barolo Mosconi 2006

90 points | \$105 | 393 cases made | Red

Shows dark chocolate, plum, tobacco and leather notes up front, then the aggressive tannins take over. The finish is gripping and dry, but there's sweet fruit that returns, managing the tannins in the end. Requires faith. Best from 2014 through 2035.—*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, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

FRITZ HAAG

Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Mosel Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr 2009
97 points | \$55/375ml | 100 cases made | White

The focused, juicy peachiness in this white is fresh and lively, offering notes of ripe melon and chamomile tea. There's lots of pure minerality as well, with a glorious finish that's long and racy, featuring glazed apricot, clove and nutmeg. Best from 2014 through 2040. *From Germany.—K.M.*

JOH. JOS. PRÜM

Riesling Auslese Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2009
97 points | \$46 | NA cases made | White

Racy and powerful, with loads of bright acidity behind the intense concentrated green apple, peach and ripe melon flavors. There's a concentrated minerality to this as well, with some fascinating hints of lardons and spice on the finish. Best from 2015 through 2040. *From Germany.—K.M.*

FALLETTO DI BRUNO GIACOSA

Barolo Le Rocche del Falletto Riserva 2004
96 points | \$300 | 101 cases imported | Red

This requires aeration to coax out its fragrant floral, cherry and raspberry fruit aromas. Though supple, focused and elegant, it's very firmly structured, with an underlying mineral streak and a long aftertaste of tobacco. Will be a beauty in about five years. Best from 2013 through 2032. *From Italy.—B.S.*

FRITZ HAAG

Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Mosel Brauneberger Juffer 2009
96 points | \$40/375ml | 40 cases made | White

Pure-tasting and opulent, with rich, concentrated apricot, peach, pear and apple flavors that are long and lush. Hints of ruby grapefruit power this as well, carrying through to the long, cream-, vanilla- and toffee-filled finish. Best from 2015 through 2040. *From Germany.—K.M.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 12 people in two offices. They work together to review more than 18,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our six 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; their initials identify the taster of each wine reviewed. We score wines using the 100-point scale, explained below.

James Laube Senior editor, Napa
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: California

Kim Marcus Managing editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Austria, Greece, Port, Portugal, Southern France

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 |

Thomas Matthews Executive editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: New York, Spain

James Molesworth Senior editor, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Argentina, Bordeaux, Chile, Finger Lakes, Loire Valley, Rhône Valley, South Africa

Bruce Sanderson Tasting director, New York
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1993. Tasting beat: Burgundy, Champagne, Germany, Italy

Harvey Steiman Editor at large, San Francisco
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Tim Fish (California)
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