

# Wine Spectator's Insider Weekly

December 30, 2020

A First Look at Our Editors' Most Exciting New Wines

California Portugal Italy France Hot Wines: The Best of the Week

## California

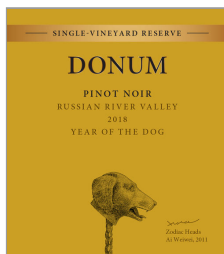
### Pinot Noir

#### DONUM

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Single  
Vineyard Reserve 2018

94 points | \$125 | 295 cases made | Red

Bursts across the palate with zesty cherry and raspberry flavors that are backed by suave acidity and medium-grained tannins, ending with dried rose petal accents on the sumptuous, mineral-filled finish. Drink now through 2025. —K.M.

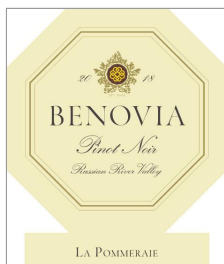


#### BENOVIA

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley La  
Pommeraiie 2018

93 points | \$65 | 490 cases made | Red

There's rich ripeness to the concentrated cherry, red plum and raspberry flavors, showing accents of dried mint and tarragon. The vibrant finish features hints of hot spices that give this added verve. Drink now through 2025. —K.M.



#### VALUE PICK OF THE WEEK SPAIN



#### MERUM PRIORATI

Priorat Destí 2017

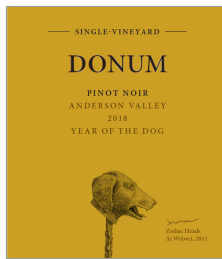
95 points | \$29 | 1,600 cases imported | Red

## DONUM

### Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Single Vineyard 2018

93 points | \$85 | 730 cases made | Red

Rich and well-structured, with an effusive blend of red fruit and spice flavors that feature loamy richness. Dark chocolate notes midpalate lead to a finish that lingers with hints of vanilla bean. Drink now through 2026. —*K.M.*



#### **Tasting Note:**

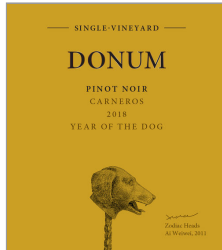
This red is expressive and harmonious. Black cherry, mineral, floral, mountain herb and spice notes are supported by well-integrated tannins and lively acidity. Focused, fresh and long. Grenache, Carignan and Syrah. Drink now through 2027. —*T.M.*

## DONUM

### Pinot Noir Carneros Single Vineyard 2018

93 points | \$80 | 1,700 cases made | Red

Lithe and powerfully spiced, with a mix of wild berry, plum tart and dried cherry flavors that are backed by firm acidity and fine-grained tannins. Finishes with a pure, mineral essence. Drink now through 2024. —*K.M.*



## DUTTON-GOLDFIELD

### Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Angel Camp Vineyard 2018

93 points | \$62 | 327 cases made | Red

Pure and mineral, with vibrant acidity backing crushed cherry and berry flavors. Offers savory richness midpalate, with an elegant, spice-filled finish that shows hints of dried sage. Drink now through 2026. —*K.M.*

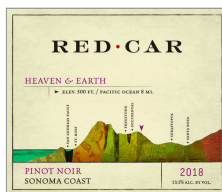


## RED CAR

### Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Heaven & Earth 2018

93 points | \$75 | 420 cases made | Red

This rich version is filled with sculpted dark cherry and plum tart flavors that are backed by lively acidity and fresh tannins. Shows mineral intensity midpalate, with a long, vibrant finish that features plenty of toasty and spicy accents. Drink now through 2025. —*K.M.*

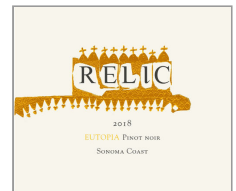


## RELIC

### Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Eutopia 2018

93 points | \$70 | 234 cases made | Red

Powerful and well-structured, with a lithe blend of dried cherry and berry flavors that feature notes of forest floor. Shows sanguine and hot stone hints on the finish, with accents of tea and cola. Drink now through 2025. —*K.M.*



## ROCHIOLI

### Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2018

93 points | \$80 | 2,900 cases made | Red

Powerful and pure-tasting, with underbrush accents and hints of white pepper to the dark currant and dried raspberry flavors. Cedary in the midpalate, with a long finish of dried beef and loamy notes. Drink now through 2025. —*K.M.*



# Portugal

## Vintage Port

### QUINTA DE LA ROSA

Vintage Port 2018

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

Racy and vibrant Port in the making here, with mouthwatering bramble and anise notes running along the edges of a lively mix of cassis, raspberry ganache and blackberry and fig paste notes. Lots of energy drives the finish, which is marked with a bold licorice snap note. Best from 2030 through 2050. —J.M.

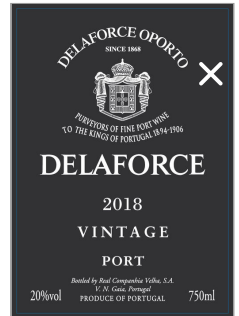


### DELAFORCE

Vintage Port 2018

95 points | \$70 | 75 cases imported | Red

Ripe and packed, but also very fresh, with a mix of blueberry, açai and raspberry compote flavors that are well-defined as they cruise through, picking up black tea, fruitcake and licorice snap notes along the way. There's a roasted apple wood note in the background, adding more energy to the finish. Best from 2030 through 2045. —J.M.



### QUINTA DO VALE MEÃO

Vintage Port 2018

95 points | \$80 | 108 cases imported | Red

Juicy and wiry, with tension in its display of raspberry, blackberry and plum pâte de fruit notes thanks to riveting underlying acidity, this drives along with great cut, ending with a flourish of anise, bramble and juniper. Feels pretty tight too, so bank on this needing a little extra time. Touriga Franca, Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barroca, Tinta Amarela and Sousão. Best from 2032 through 2050. —J.M.



### WINE & SOUL

Vintage Port Pintas 2018

95 points | \$90 | 50 cases imported | Red

This is on track to peak into a lush and seductive Port, as it's displaying a youthfully compact but very velvety profile of blueberry, açai and plum flavors backed by graceful swirls of black tea, ganache and dried wood spice. There's a floral accent in the background and lovely purity through the finish too. All you need is time ... Best from 2030 through 2045. —J.M.



### BURMESTER

Vintage Port Quinta do Arnozelo 2018

94 points | \$50 | 10 cases imported | Red

Delivers a gush of warmed açai compote, blueberry reduction and plum sauce flavors with velvety structure and infused with hints of cocoa, ganache and alder. Late tug of warm earth adds a slightly brooding feel. Best from 2030 through 2045. —J.M.



### FERREIRA

Vintage Port 2018

94 points | \$150 | 200 cases imported | Red

Polished and suave in feel, with a hint of dark tea curling up from the core of steeped plum, blackberry and black currant preserve flavors. Lots of juicy energy coiled up through the finish, where graphite and licorice-snap notes assert themselves. Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca. Best from 2030 through 2045. —J.M.



### FONSECA

Vintage Port Guimaraens 2018

94 points | \$58 | 100 cases imported | Red

Warm, soft-edged and generally open, with a core of steeped plum, blackberry preserve and blueberry reduction flavors leading the way, backed by hints of ganache and licorice root on the finish that add a grippier feel. More bass than treble, but well-packed and should age well. Best from 2030 through 2045. —J.M.



### KOPKE

Vintage Port Quinta S. Luiz 2018

94 points | \$60 | 10 cases imported | Red

Nicely packed, with lots of blueberry, blackberry and plum fruit flavors inlaid with bramble and mouthwatering licorice snap notes. Has great energy through the focused finish, with both a floral note and warm earth hint adding a pretty contrast to the copious fruit. Best from 2030 through 2045. —J.M.



# Italy

## Sicily

### TENUTA DELLE TERRE NERE

Etna Prephylloxera La Vigna di Don Peppino  
2018

94 points | \$120 | 175 cases imported | Red

This medium-bodied red entices with a rich, minerally nose, while the palate is silky in texture, offering a panoply of finely knit flavors, including plumped cherry, spiced orange, baked fig and marjoram. It's bright and mouthwatering, firming on the lingering finish. Drink now through 2036. —A.N.



### GRACI

Etna Arcuria Sopra Il Pozzo 2016

93 points | \$220 | 100 cases imported | Red

A refined red, drawing you into the glass with delicate notes of cardamom and tea rose, aromatic accents to the flavors of wild strawberry, iron, espresso bean and dried fig that ripple on the lightly plush palate. Take your time with this, and let the flavors expand with each sip, through to the lightly chewy, lingering finish. Drink now through 2029. —A.N.



### TENUTA DELLE TERRE NERE

Etna Calderara Sottana 2018

93 points | \$63 | 300 cases imported | Red

Dried raspberry and kirsch notes are rich and juicy on the palate of this expressive, medium- to full-bodied red, accented by candied violet and star anise aromatics. It's well-balanced and mouthwatering, with an underpinning of racy minerality driving the chewy finish. Drink now through 2030. —A.N.



### TENUTA DELLE TERRE NERE

Etna Feudo di Mezzo Il Quadro delle Rose  
2018

93 points | \$50 | 151 cases imported | Red

A supple, medium-bodied red, with creamy tannins and a lovely range of ripe raspberry, rose hip and licorice flavors. A skein of spice and mineral winds through the tapestry of the fresh finish. Drink now through 2030. —A.N.



# France

## Condrieu

### PIERRE-JEAN VILLA

Condrieu Jardin Suspendu 2019

95 points | \$80 | 50 cases imported | White

This has a creamy, hedonistic feel, with honeycomb, apricot, brioche, white ginger and creamed yellow apple flavors layered seamlessly and carrying through a long, acacia-tinged finish. Drink now through 2025. —J.M.

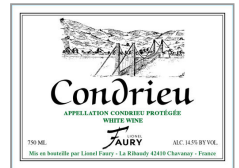


### DOMAINE FAURY

Condrieu 2018

94 points | \$51 | White

That grabs your attention with its mix of creamed pear, nectarine and quince flavors that are laced with a racy white ginger note, before ending with a flourish of honeysuckle and acacia. Drink now through 2023. —J.M.



### LOUIS CHÈZE

Condrieu Brèze 2018

93 points | \$95 | 100 cases imported | White

Ripe and lush in feel, with warm brioche and bitter almond notes framing a core of creamed apricot, melon and mango. Flash of green tea injects energy into the finish. Drink now through 2024. —J.M.

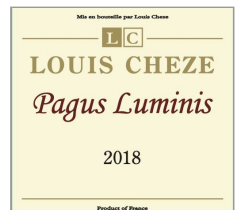


### LOUIS CHÈZE

Condrieu Pagus Luminis 2018

93 points | \$70 | 400 cases imported | White

Ripe and flattering from the start, with apricot and mango notes interwoven with honeycomb, green fig and white ginger. Juicy, seductive finish picks up a buttered brioche hint. Drink now through 2025. —J.M.



# Hot Wines

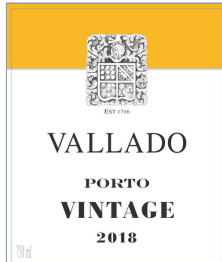
These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors' most recent tastings, published exclusively in Wine Spectator Insider. They are high-scoring wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

## QUINTA DO VALLADO

Vintage Port 2018

97 points | \$110 | 100 cases imported | Red

Really vibrant, with bramble-laced blueberry, blackberry and raspberry compote flavors driving along, while mouthwatering anise, violet and fruitcake accents add detail and sparkle throughout. Finish sports a gorgeous late kick of fruit and spice. Best from 2030 through 2050. From Portugal. —*J.M.*



## QUINTA DO VESUVIO

Vintage Port 2018

97 points | \$85 | 100 cases imported | Red

Expressive, with a wave of pure creamed plum, blackberry and blueberry fruit gliding through atop enticing anise and milk chocolate notes. Velvety, caressing finish makes it hard to see the graphite structure here, but it's there. Suave finish too. Will be hard to lay off this one in its youth, but it's destined for terrific development. Best from 2032 through 2055. From Portugal. —*J.M.*



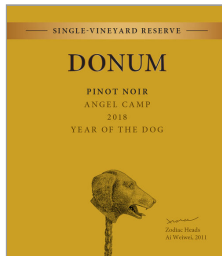
## DONUM

Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Angel Camp

Single Vineyard Reserve 2018

95 points | \$125 | 235 cases made | Red

Lusciously spiced, with plenty of vanilla notes to the ripe red cherry and raspberry flavors. Toasty in the midpalate, with a long, burnished finish that is filled with juicy richness. Unctuous and hard to resist. Drink now through 2026. From California. —*K.M.*



## JULIEN PILON

Condrieu Lône 2018

95 points | \$60 | 84 cases imported | White

Showy, head-turner of a wine. Honeycomb and white ginger notes lead off, backed by apricot, white peach and mango flavors, stitched seamlessly together. Warm brioche accent on the finish completes the seduction. Drink now through 2025. From France. —*J.M.*



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### Wine Spectator's 100-Point Scale

<b>95 - 100</b> Classic	<b>80 - 84</b> Good
<b>90 - 94</b> Outstanding	<b>75 - 79</b> Mediocre
<b>85 - 89</b> Very Good	<b>50 - 74</b> Not Recommended

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