

Wine Spectator Insider

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A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

THIS week's edition of the *Wine Spectator Insider* features nearly 40 outstanding white wines from France and Germany. New reviews for 2008 German Rieslings, nearly all of them spätlesen, are featured here. Bruce Sanderson reports that 2008 in Germany's Mosel region is an excellent vintage, particularly suited to spätlesen, producing sleek and vibrant Rieslings. This issue's top-scoring wine is a classic-rated Mosel Riesling, and you'll find it among the Hot Wines, on page 4.

Sanderson also reviews more than two dozen white Burgundies from Meursault this week, most of which come from the outstanding 2007 vintage. The 2007s in Burgundy are lean but pure and precise Chardonnays, with plenty of mineral flavors. Many are ready to drink now, and all should hold up for at least another 10 years.

France Burgundy

BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Meursault Perrières 2007

93 points | \$106 | 80 cases imported | White

Elegant and coiled tight, this white features lime, apple and intense mineral flavors on a sleek, linear frame. The finish is mouth-watering and very long, with a chalky feel. Almost ready; better in a year. Better than previously reviewed. Best from 2011 through 2022.—*B.S.*

FRANÇOIS & ANTOINE JOBARD

Meursault Poruzots 2005

93 points | \$120 | 10 cases imported | White

A delicious, well-integrated white Burgundy that's ready to drink now. Honey, peach, grapefruit and mineral aromas and flavors ride the lush, juicy texture as this glides to a long aftertaste. Should still develop. Drink now through 2016.—*B.S.*

VINCENT GIRARDIN

Meursault Les Genevrières 2007

92 points | \$90 | 100 cases imported | White

An expansive, inviting white, this exhibits flesh and balance matched to a vibrant structure. Those components carry the butterscotch, peach and grapefruit flavors to a long, graceful conclusion. Toasty aftertaste. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

FRANÇOIS & ANTOINE JOBARD

Meursault-Blagny 2005

92 points | \$120 | 10 cases imported | White

A bit muted on the nose, this shows fine structure and flavors that are morphing from fruit to smoke, spice and mineral. There's still a good dose of lime, and the intensity to develop further. Long finish. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

OLIVIER LEFLAIVE

Meursault Charmes 2007

92 points | \$96 | 200 cases imported | White

Iodine and seashore aromas foreshadow the mineral element in this expressive white. Apple, lemon and clove notes add complexity. It's propelled by the racy structure, ending with a mineral aftertaste. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

THIERRY & PASCALE MATROT

Meursault Charmes 2007

92 points | \$82 | 150 cases imported | White

Rich and round, with apple butter, grapefruit and honey notes. There's an underlying beam of mineral and acidity keeping it focused and persistent through the finish. Drink now through 2019.—*B.S.*

THIERRY & PASCALE MATROT

Meursault-Blagny 2007

92 points | \$78 | 150 cases imported | White

The smoke- and lime blossom-tinged aromas are alluring, but only the teaser, as the lime, mineral and peach flavors unfold on the palate. Racy and tight, this builds nicely to a long, long aftertaste. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

MICHELOT

Meursault Charmes 2007

92 points | \$80 | 20 cases imported | White

Rich in the context of the vintage, with honey, pastry, lime and hazelnut flavors on a round frame. Beautifully balanced, it's nonetheless vibrant and snappy too, ending with a mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2019.—*B.S.*

MISCHIEF & MAYHEM

Meursault Gouttes d'Or 2007

92 points | \$90 | 150 cases made | White

An attractive combination of richness and vibrant structure allows the peach, quince and grapefruit flavors to shine. The oak treatment adds a spice accent and this unfolds nicely on the finish. Best from 2011 through 2022.—*B.S.*

MOREY-BLANC

Meursault Bouchères 2007

92 points | \$130 | 30 cases imported | White

Ripe and supple, with honey, lime, hazelnut and peach tones, yet also very bright and lively. It's elegant and harmonious, lingering with a vanilla, butterscotch and hazelnut aftertaste. Even better in a year or two. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

MOREY-BLANC

Meursault Charmes 2007

92 points | \$144 | 35 cases imported | White

A core of flesh is offset by the austere nature of this tightly wound, nervy white. Lime, Granny Smith apple, vanilla and mineral notes persist through the long finish. Best from 2011 through 2022.—*B.S.*

JOSEPH FAIVELEY

Meursault Charmes 2007

91 points | \$137 | 3 cases imported | White

Smoky, toasty aromas give way to butterscotch, peach and grapefruit flavor in this spice-filled white. The rich texture up front is matched by a vibrant structure and the toast and spice aftertaste lingers. Drink now through 2019.—*B.S.*

JOBARD-CHABLOZ

Meursault Clos du Cromin 2007

91 points | \$54 | 25 cases imported | White

A beautiful Chardonnay, with soft floral and sweet spice aromas offsetting lime and stone flavors. You can almost feel the mineral essence as this turns firm and savory on the long finish. Drink now through 2015.—*B.S.*

RÉMI JOBARD

Meursault Le Poruzot-Dessus 2007

91 points | \$99 | 5 cases imported | White

A fleshy, creamy white for '07, offering complex aromas and flavors of lime, fresh herbs, apple and mineral. Very taut and unyielding now, but with a fresh, crisp finish that lingers. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

VINCENT GIRARDIN

Meursault Les Charmes-Dessus 2007

90 points | \$78 | 150 cases imported | White

Assertive from the bracing acidity, this tight, laserlike white etches lime, green apple, clove and nutmeg flavors to the structure. Needs time to unwind and express its mineral side. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

VINCENT GIRARDIN

Meursault Les Tillets 2007

90 points | \$47 | 200 cases imported | White

Complex, showing aromas and flavors of ripe orchard fruit, mineral and oak spice. The lively acidity keeps it bright and focused and this cruises to a long, tangy finish. Drink now through 2014.—*B.S.*

MAISON JESSIAUME

Meursault Charmes 2007

90 points | \$60 | 35 cases imported | White

Delicate notes of flowers, herbs, lime and banana grace this elegant white. There's a latent energy here, but it needs time to put all its components together. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

JOBARD-CHABLOZ

Meursault Le Limozin 2007

90 points | \$58 | 25 cases imported | White

A cinnamon aroma leads off, followed by apple, grapefruit, clove and nutmeg notes. This is tightly wound, with structure coming from both the acidity and oak. Nice, citrus and spice aftertaste. Needs time. Best from 2011 through 2016.—*B.S.*

FRANÇOIS & ANTOINE JOBARD

Meursault En La Barre 2005

90 points | \$84 | 10 cases imported | White

Still showing lots of structure, with the flavors beginning to develop to more toast, pastry, candied grapefruit peel and cooked spice. Still very firm and powerful, but approachable. Fine length. Drink now through 2015.—*B.S.*

RÉMI JOBARD

Meursault Les Chevalières 2007

90 points | \$75 | 25 cases imported | White

Full bodied and almost creamy in texture, this white features brioche, peach, butter and grapefruit aromas and flavors. Tightens up on the finish, which shows fine potential. Best from 2011 through 2015.—*B.S.*

LOUIS LATOUR

Meursault Charmes 2007

90 points | \$70 | 410 cases made | White

Broad strokes of apple cake, butterscotch and spice lead off in this powerful white. The racy acidity subdues it on the finish for now. Needs time to integrate. Best from 2011 through 2019.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE

Meursault Sous le Dos d'Ane 2007

90 points | \$156 | NA cases made | White

Ripe, verging on apricot in flavor, with hints of nectarine, grapefruit and vanilla, yet essentially mineral c. It's full bodied and sinewy, with a juicy finish. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

MANUEL OLIVIER

Meursault 2007

90 points | \$60 | 50 cases imported | White

The flavors are a delicate mix of flowers, lime, hazelnut and chalk, matched to a stern frame. There's a nice touch with the oak here and the finish lingers. Drink now through 2014.—*B.S.*

ROUX PÈRE & FILS

Meursault Clos des Poruzots 2007

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

Aromas of pastry lead off, supported by apple and citrus flavors. It's a bit compact now, with some tannins also creating a firm edge that clamps down on the finish. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

Germany

BASTGEN

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr 2008

92 points | \$29 | 75 cases imported | White

Appetizing, piquant flavors courtesy of the spice and acidity in this light bodied, lively white. Smoke, slate, lime and apple complete the flavor spectrum and the finish is mouthwatering. Best from 2012 through 2030.—*B.S.*

ROBERT EYMAEL (MÖNCHHOF)

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Ürziger Würzgarten 2008

92 points | \$27 | 500 cases imported | White

Rich, vibrant and spicy, its peach, nectarine and mineral aromas and flavors unfolding with grace and intensity. There's a piquant liveliness and this ends long and satisfying. Drink now through 2028.—*B.S.*

REINHOLD HAART

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Ohligsberger 2008

92 points | \$42 | 100 cases made | White

Broader than its peers, with apple quince and mineral salt flavors allied to a bracing structure. It's on the drier side too, with persistence and staying power. Should be ideal for game with some age. Best from 2011 through 2024.—*B.S.*

DR. LOOSEN

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Erdener Treppchen 2008

91 points | \$30 | NA cases made | White

Plump and juicy, with racy acidity driving jellied citrus and apricot notes. A latent mineral element sits under the surface, rising on the lingering finish. Drink now through 2024.—*B.S.*

DR. LOOSEN

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Ürziger Würzgarten 2008

91 points | \$30 | NA cases made | White

Plenty of lily, freesia and orange aromas and flavors here, buoyed by the bright acidity. It's delicate and filigree, with a lingering, mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2026.—*B.S.*

BASTGEN

Riesling QbA Mosel Blauschiefer 2008

90 points | \$17 | 300 cases imported | White

Apricot, passion fruit, spice and mineral notes mingle in this juicy Riesling. It's crisp and balanced, with a lingering, mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2012.—*B.S.*

KARTHÄUSERHOF

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Eitelsbacher

Karthäuserhofberg 2008

90 points | \$40 | 500 cases made | White

Lime, apple and grapefruit notes collaborate with the vibrant structure and weightless profile, leaving a vivid impression on the palate. A racy Riesling, with a mouthwatering mineral finish. Best from 2011 through 2025.—*B.S.*

LOOSEN BROS.

Riesling QbA Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Dr. L 2008

90 points | \$12 | 75,000 cases made | White

Sleek and tangy, showing apricot, lime and mango flavors matched to a lively structure. Nice harmony and persistence through the finish. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

DR. LOOSEN

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2008

90 points | \$30 | NA cases made | White

Sleek and pure, offering savory, mineral notes evenly matched by peach and lime. It's more about precision and detail than power. Nice juicy finish. Drink now through 2025.—*B.S.*

DR. H. THANISCH (VDP)

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Berncasteler Doctor 2008

90 points | \$69 | 150 cases made | White

There's a confection aspect to the lime, apple and peach flavors in this elegant, classy white, with a beam of lime and mineral on the finish. Light-weight and focused. Drink now through 2024.—*B.S.*

ZILLIKEN

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Saarburger Rausch 2008

90 points | \$40 | 200 cases made | White

Bracing, this compact, delicate white offers vanilla, lime, slate and a hint of passion fruit flavors. It's juicy midpalate, with a long, incisive finish. Best from 2012 through 2024.—*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.

REINHOLD HAART

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Piesport Goldtröpfchen 2008
95 points | \$42 | 200 cases made | White

Haunting, this evokes violet, black currant and slate aromas and flavors, all defined by the taut, racy structure. It's light-weight, lean and intense, with a kaleidoscope of flavors on the expansive finish. Tensile. Best from 2014 through 2032. *From Germany.—B.S.*

LOUIS LATOUR

Meursault Perrières 2007
94 points | \$85 | 175 cases made | White

Racy yet stylish and exuding focused flavors of lime, green apple, flint and a hint of vanilla. Fine balance within its taut, linear profile, with a long stony finish. This should age beautifully. Best from 2012 through 2025. *From France.—B.S.*

MISCHIEF & MAYHEM

Meursault Les Charmes 2007
94 points | \$90 | 100 cases made | White

An enticing white, bursting with lemon cake, pear, hazelnut and vanilla aromas and flavors, all very pure and defined. There's richness and elegance at once, dissolving into a spice, citrus and mineral aftertaste. Best from 2011 through 2024. *From France.—B.S.*

SCHLOSS LIESER

Riesling Spätlese Mosel Brauneberger Juffer
Sonnenuhr 2008
93 points | \$35 | 400 cases made | White

Brown spices, apricot, peach and slate aromas and flavors highlight this laserlike white. It's vivid and impacts the palate like a neon sign at night. Lovely slate-tinged aftertaste. Best from 2012 through 2030. *From Germany.—B.S.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 14 people in three offices. They work together to review more than 18,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our seven senior tasters count more than 140 years of tasting experience.

We always taste wine blind in our offices in Napa, New York and Tuscany. 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.

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: California

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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