

# Wine Spectator Insider

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A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

FRANCE is home to all the wines in this week's *Wine Spectator Insider*. Alsace, Burgundy and the Rhône Valley are all featured here, but it's a trio of extremely collectible Côte-Rôties that take top-billing in this edition. You'll find James Molesworth's reviews of E. Guigal's 2005 "La La" wines—three single-vineyard Syrah-based cuvées made in very small productions that have earned a cult following with collectors—among the Hot Wines, on page 4.

Six outstanding Alsatian Rieslings appear this week, reviewed by tasting coordinator Alison Napjus, and Bruce Sanderson covers 2007 and 2006 white Burgundies, most of them from the village of Chassagne-Montrachet. 2006 is an outstanding vintage for Burgundy's Chardonnays, and 2007 is potentially as well.

## France Alsace

### WEINBACH

Riesling Alsace Grand Cru Schlossberg Cuvée  
Ste.-Catherine L'Inédit 2007  
**92 points | \$72 | 135 cases imported | White**

This is just off-dry, showing honeyed flavors of ripe peach, kiwi-fruit and a touch of pineapple, with juicy acidity for balance and intensity. Rich and well-meshed, with an overall elegance and a subtle finish. Delicious. Drink now through 2024.—A.N.

### ALBERT MANN

Riesling Alsace Grand Cru Furstentum 2007  
**91 points | \$50 | 160 cases made | White**

A black licorice note wraps around ripe flavors of apple, yellow peach and pineapple in this rich white, which is just off-dry and juicy, with a honeyed, lightly smoky finish. Drink now through 2019.—A.N.

### WEINBACH

Riesling Alsace Grand Cru Schlossberg Cuvée  
Ste.-Catherine 2007  
**91 points | \$60 | 180 cases imported | White**

A fleshy white, with ripe fruit flavors of apricot and blood orange balanced by pleasantly bitter hints of red grapefruit and candied orange peel. There's a plump juiciness to the acidity, with a lightly smoked finish that lingers. Drink now through 2020.—A.N.

### DOMAINE GRESSER

Riesling Alsace Kritt 2007  
**90 points | \$24 | NA cases made | White**

This elegant Riesling is well-defined by intense acidity. Hints of brine and lemon zest mix with apple blossom and apricot flavors, and the clean finish shows a subtle smoky note. Drink now through 2019.—A.N.

### ALBERT MANN

Riesling Alsace Grand Cru Schlossberg 2007  
**90 points | \$50 | 800 cases made | White**

A subtle white, with well-defined acidity and flavors of lemon zest and sea salt, as well as underlying notes of apple, honey and mineral. This shows intensity and a firm structure, and should open up with time. Best from 2011 through 2021.—A.N.

### WEINBACH

Riesling Alsace Cuvée Ste.-Catherine 2007  
**90 points | \$45 | 180 cases imported | White**

This shows good intensity, with slate and smoke backing up the ripe apricot and tangerine notes. The racy acidity leads to a lingering, spice-tinged finish. Drink now through 2014.—A.N.

# France

## Burgundy

### MOREY-BLANC

Corton-Charlemagne 2006

**93 points | \$160 | 50 cases imported | White**

Plenty of wax, pastry and spice flavors add interest to the peach and mineral in this tightly wound white. There's good richness midpalate as this plays out to a long, toasty aftertaste. Compelling from start to finish. Best from 2011 through 2028.—*B.S.*

### JEAN-CLAUDE BACHELET & FILS

Chassagne-Montrachet La Boudriotte 2006

**92 points | \$69 | 5 cases imported | White**

An elegant version, tightly wound and laced with lime, apple, peach and mineral flavors. It really stretches out with tension, yet stays balanced and harmonious. If anything, a tad hot on the finish, but I'll put my money on this. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

### CHAMPY

Corton-Charlemagne 2007

**92 points | \$180 | 225 cases made | White**

This has the racy structure of the vintage, supporting white peach, apple and spice aromas and flavors. A chalky, stony theme weaves through the lingering aftertaste. Understated yet intense. Best from 2014 through 2032.—*B.S.*

### JEAN CHARTRON

Corton-Charlemagne 2007

**92 points | \$175 | 50 cases made | White**

A sleek white, whose lemon, apple and mineral flavors follow clean lines across the palate. This is not that expressive now, but pure and long, so give it time to flesh out. Best from 2014 through 2030.—*B.S.*

### BRUNO COLIN

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Vergers 2006

**92 points | \$78 | 20 cases imported | White**

A round, buttery style, yet feels more restrained than some of its peers. The oak is toned down and there's a mineral streak along with lime and peach flavors. The finish is fresh. Drink now through 2016.—*B.S.*

### GAGNARD-DELAGRANGE

Chassagne-Montrachet La Boudriotte 2006

**92 points | \$54 | 60 cases imported | White**

Though rich, this white is balanced by a lively structure, keeping its peach, citrus, floral and spice flavors defined and persistent. Overall, it's really harmonious and stays long on the aftertaste. Drink now through 2016.—*B.S.*

### LUCIEN LE MOINE

Chassagne-Montrachet Grandes Ruchottes 2006

**92 points | \$185 | NA cases made | White**

Round and well endowed with peach, floral, spice and mineral aromas and flavors. It builds nicely on the palate, underscored by lively acidity. The finish is subtle, but lasts and lasts, with an aftertaste of toast. Drink now through 2017.—*B.S.*

### CHAMPY

Beaune White Les Reversées 2007

**91 points | \$80 | 50 cases made | White**

Cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice notes are generated by oak, while apple and peach flavors are more submerged. Supple and balanced, so age this short term to harmonize. Best from 2010 through 2016.—*B.S.*

### CAMILLE GIROUD

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Vergers 2006

**91 points | \$80 | 20 cases imported | White**

An alluring white of opulent character, displaying honey, apricot, spice and mineral aromas and flavors. It's on the soft side, but has staying power. Will appeal to the hedonists. Drink now through 2016.—*B.S.*

### LUCIEN LE MOINE

Chassagne-Montrachet Embrazées 2006

**91 points | \$165 | NA cases made | White**

Broad and powerful on the attack, with lime and mineral notes, tailing off midpalate, then accelerating again on the long, lime-, toast- and spice-filled finish. This needs a little more time. Best from 2011 through 2018.—*B.S.*

### MARC MOREY

Chassagne-Montrachet En Virondot 2006

**91 points | \$114 | 87 cases imported | White**

The reduction blows off with air to reveal a high-toned, floral- and lime-infused white. It's sleek and mineral, with a vibrant structure driving it to a long conclusion. Best from 2011 through 2018.—*B.S.*

### RAMONET

Chassagne-Montrachet Boudriotte 2006

**91 points | \$68 | 150 cases imported | White**

Soft and lush, featuring talcum powder, peach, vanilla and toast aromas and flavors. It teeters on being over the top, but remains focused, in an extravagant way. Drink now through 2016.—*B.S.*

### CHAMPY

Pernand-Vergelesse White 2007

**90 points | \$69 | 1,250 cases made | White**

A laserlike white whose lemon, chalk dust and mineral aromas and flavors are etched onto the tensile structure. This has ripe fruit to ward off austerity and leaves a mouthwatering impression. Drink now through 2014.—*B.S.*

### JOSEPH DROUHIN

Chassagne-Montrachet Marquis de Laguiche 2006

**90 points | \$114 | 900 cases imported | White**

Intensely flavored, exuding honey, apricot and grapefruit accented by clove. It's an opulent, exaggerated style, yet has length. Drink now through 2014.—*B.S.*

## ALEX GAMBAL

Chassagne-Montrachet Clos St.-Jean 2006  
**90 points | \$65 | 90 cases made | White**

Full, opulent and powerful, this peach and apricot-flavored white is accented by toast and spice. Shows the ripeness of the vintage, yet lingers well on the finish. Drink now through 2015.—*B.S.*

## MICHEL NIELLON

Chassagne-Montrachet Clos St.-Jean 2006  
**90 points | \$75 | 90 cases imported | White**

Rich and expressive, showing floral, lime, hazelnut and toast notes nicely embedded in the lush texture. Fine equilibrium, followed by a long finish. Drink now through 2014.—*B.S.*

## RAMONET

Chassagne-Montrachet Les Ruchottes 2006  
**90 points | \$85 | 100 cases imported | White**

Supple, this white exudes spice notes of cinnamon, clove and vanilla, along with grapefruit and peach flavors. Good acidity keeps it bright and focused. Drink now through 2015.—*B.S.*

## RAMONET

Chassagne-Montrachet Morgeot 2006  
**90 points | \$68 | 165 cases imported | White**

The lush texture envelops peach, floral and citrus flavors. Moderate acidity keeps it focused and a hint of mineral creeps in on the finish. Drink now through 2014.—*B.S.*

# France Rhône

## JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE

Hermitage 2006  
**95 points | \$240 | 80 cases imported | Red**

Offers a remarkable combination of density and elegance, with a loamy, cocoa-driven backdrop to the crushed plum, black cherry, incense and iron notes. Long, silky tannins carry everything through the precise, mouthwatering finish. No skipping a beat here. Best from 2010 through 2021.—*J.M.*

## JEAN-MICHEL GERIN

Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2006  
**94 points | \$175 | 10 cases imported | Red**

Shows impressive depth for the vintage, with alluring mocha and incense aromatics backed by a long, iron-framed palate of black cherry, blackberry and fig fruit. The finish is full of grip, with finely cut mineral and spice notes that linger on, thanks to well-embedded acidity. Best from 2010 through 2021.—*J.M.*

## JEAN-MICHEL GERIN

Côte-Rôtie Les Grandes Places 2006  
**93 points | \$125 | 40 cases imported | Red**

Still a bit taut, with briary tannins framing the red currant, black cherry, licorice and iron notes. Firm, with the licorice edge winning out on the slightly tangy, olive- and mineral-filled finish. This need cellaring to flesh out fully. Best from 2010 through 2020.—*J.M.*

## E. GUIGAL

St.-Joseph Vignes de l'Hospice 2006  
**93 points | \$100 | 830 cases made | Red**

Very round and fresh, with delicious crushed fig, plum sauce and graphite notes laced with spice and sweet earth notes. The long, incense- and toast-filled finish has lovely texture. Mocha and fruitcake notes at the very end should flesh out nicely with cellaring. Best after 2010.—*J.M.*

## DELAS

Côte-Rôtie Seigneur de Maugiron 2006  
**92 points | \$78 | 300 cases imported | Red**

Muscular for the vintage, with dark cherry, fig and currant notes mingling with plenty of iron, cocoa and braised olive hints. The long, briar-tinged finish has excellent grip. Best from 2010 through 2019.—*J.M.*

## DELAS

Hermitage Marquise de la Tourette 2006  
**92 points | \$68 | 220 cases imported | Red**

Silky and alluring, with lovely mocha and espresso aromatics followed by lush black cherry, fig paste and crushed currant notes. Fleshy and pure on the finish, with solid underlying minerality. Drink now through 2017.—*J.M.*

## DELAS

St.-Joseph Ste.-Épine 2007  
**92 points | \$54 | 150 cases imported | Red**

Very fresh, with nice underlying drive to the black cherry, black tea, incense and plum sauce notes. The long, iron-tinged finish has more grip than most in the vintage. Really solid. Drink now through 2012.—*J.M.*

## DOMAINE FAURY

Côte-Rôtie 2007  
**91 points | \$NA | NA cases made | Red**

Very fresh, with sappy, almost ebullient black cherry and blackberry fruit flavors gilded with iron and violet notes. The long, iron-tinged finish is textbook for the appellation. Mouthwatering acidity. Drink now through 2015.—*J.M.*

## JEAN-MICHEL GERIN

Côte-Rôtie Champin Le Seigneur 2006  
**91 points | \$60 | 150 cases imported | Red**

Vibrant and racy, with good drive to the red licorice, red currant and damson plum notes, backed by hints of fruitcake, roasted vanilla and iron. The long, silky finish is finely tuned. Drink now through 2016.—*J.M.*

## JEAN-MICHEL GERIN

St.-Joseph 2007  
**91 points | \$30 | 150 cases imported | Red**

Shows the bright, crunchy acidity of the vintage, with hints of violet, pastis, black cherry and incense gliding through the fresh, lengthy finish. Drink now through 2011.—*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, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

## E. GUIGAL

Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2005

**99 points | \$375 | 1,000 cases made | Red**

Still tight, with a wall of mocha and raspberry ganache covering the massive core of fig fruit, hoisin sauce and plum cake notes. This is extremely dense but remarkably polished, with a long, tongue-penetrating finish that drips of fruit and spice laid over massive grip. Best from 2012 through 2034. *From France.*—*J.M.*

## E. GUIGAL

Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2005

**99 points | \$375 | 416 cases made | Red**

Extremely dense, with Turkish coffee and bittersweet cocoa notes leading the way for a huge core of macerated plum and currant fruit, warm fig reduction and hoisin sauce notes. The long, graphite- and toast-driven finish sails on and on. Best from 2012 through 2030. *From France.*—*J.M.*

## E. GUIGAL

Côte-Rôtie La Turque 2005

**99 points | \$375 | 400 cases made | Red**

Extremely dense and reserved, with only hints of coffee, bittersweet chocolate and charred applewood leaking out from the core of melted fig, black licorice, Lapsang souchong tea and currant preserve notes. Still chewy, with formidable tannins framing the nearly endless finish, this could be the hardest of the trio to break in while cellaring. Best from 2012 through 2034. *From France.*—*J.M.*

## E. GUIGAL

Ermitage Ex Voto 2005

**96 points | \$375 | 667 cases made | Red**

Rather sleek, with fresh, very rounded plum, cherry and blackberry fruit held together by notes of black tea, sweet earth and hoisin sauce. The texture is polished and the finish very long, with echoes of mocha flittering throughout. There's plenty of grip in reserve, and this should blossom in the cellar. Far more refined than the 2003, though not quite as dynamic. Best from 2010 through 2025. *From France.*—*J.M.*

## WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

### The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

*Wine Spectator's* tasting staff includes 14 people in four 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 San Francisco, Napa, New York and Tuscany, and in the vineyard regions of Europe. 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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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Austria, Greece, Portugal, southern France

**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, Chile, Loire Valley, Rhône Valley, South Africa

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**Jo Cooke** (Veneto),

**Tim Fish** (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