

# Wine Spectator Weekly

Internet Only

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**GET WINE SPECTATOR RATINGS HERE FIRST—EVERY THURSDAY**

**W**ine delivers its immediate pleasure from the glass when you drink it. But what sets wine apart from most other beverages is that it is crafted, not manufactured, and its character always reflects something of the person who made it.

This issue, three craftsmen loom large. James Suckling highlights the distinctive Italian white wines from Gianfranco Gallo, the young, talented winemaker at Vie di Romans in Friuli. James Laube praises the 2000 Cabernets from Napa's Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, where Warren Winiarski has long made magic. And Laube also points you to Pinot Noirs sourced from Peter Cargasacchi's vineyard in Santa Rita Hills.

Knowing these men gives you confidence in their wines; tasting their wines gives insight into their character. That connection is part of the pleasure of this alluring beverage.

## California/Pinot Noir

*I tasted another exciting group of 2002 Pinots recently, including an exceptional Siduri Cargasacchi Vineyard from Santa Rita Hills, a wine that is on par with the other stellar releases of late, namely Loring Clos Pepe and Bonaccorsi. Cargasacchi (see Hot Wines, page 4) is definitely worth watching, as Bonaccorsi and others have new wines coming from this vineyard, which is farmed by the tenacious yet thoughtful Peter Cargasacchi. Siduri's Keefer Ranch and Garys' Vineyard show deft balance and beautiful fruit.—J.L.*

### Siduri

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Keefer Ranch Vineyard 2002  
**91 points | \$50 | 141 cases made**

Intense and vibrant, dark ruby-colored, with ripe, complex wild berry, blackberry and raspberry scents, finishing with a rich array of pretty berry flavors. Enough acidity and tannins to merit short-term cellaring. Drink now through 2009.—J.L.

### Siduri

Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Garys' Vineyard 2002  
**91 points | \$42 | 517 cases made**

A delicate and elegantly styled Pinot, with rich fresh cherry, raspberry, pomegranate and boysenberry fruit flavors enlivened by firm acidity and supported by firm, fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2007.—J.L.

### Sonnet

Pinot Noir Monterey Pommard Clone 2001  
**90 points | \$35 | 96 cases made**

Smooth and stylish, with rich, complex plum, dried cherry, game meat and smoke nuances. A broad range of flavors coat the palate, finishing with boysenberry. Drink now through 2008.—J.L.

## California/Other

### Sebastiani

Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley  
Appellation Selection 2001  
**92 points | \$28 | 3,300 cases made**

Dark, plush and concentrated, with pretty vanilla- and mocha-scented oak, roasted coffee, and pretty currant and wild berry flavors. The oak gives it an added flavor dimension. Best from 2005 through 2011.—J.L.

### Stag's Leap Wine Cellars

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Fay 2000  
**92 points | \$75 | 3,697 cases made**

Well-defined currant, fresh earth, mineral and sage flavors are nicely proportioned, supported by firm, supple tannins and finishing with a long, luxurious aftertaste. Drink now through 2010.—J.L.

### Stag's Leap Wine Cellars

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Cask 23 2000  
**91 points | \$150 | 3,236 cases made**

Well-balanced, with hints of beefy currant, bay leaf and bell pepper offset by rich toasty oak and an underlying sense of elegance, finishing with delicacy and grace. Drink now through 2012.—*J.L.*

### Stag's Leap Wine Cellars

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley S.L.V. 2000  
**91 points | \$100 | 1,655 cases made**

Fine balance, with delicate, restrained currant, plum, herb, earth and spice scents that are rich and focused, with fine-grained tannins and excellent length. Drink now through 2011.—*J.L.*

### Livingston Moffett

Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2001  
**90 points | \$95 | 195 cases made**

Ultraripe and spicy, full of ripe currant, kirsch, blackberry and wild berry fruit, with a touch of mint and blackberry, finishing with a chocolaty aftertaste. Drink now through 2010.—*J.L.*

### Rosenblum

Zinfandel Russian River Valley Late Harvest Rosie Rabbit Vineyard 2001  
**90 points | \$18/375ml | 1,200 cases made**

An unusually rich, exotic style of late-harvest Zinfandel, with syrupy, plush strawberry, huckleberry, boysenberry and blueberry flavors that are deftly balanced, finishing with a touch of pomegranate. Makes you want to pour it over seared foie gras. Drink now through 2012.—*J.L.*

### Bokisch

Graciano Lodi 2001  
**88 points | \$19 | 65 cases made**

An offbeat Spanish varietal, it's a big and zesty red, with floral plum, cranberry and espresso, and a hint of anise. Shows some toasty oak, and the tannins are firm but ripe. Drink now through 2008.

### Castle Rock

Zinfandel Russian River Valley 2002  
**88 points | \$10 | 3,300 cases made**

Ripe and focused blackberry, dried raspberry and earthy black cherry flavors. Mocha and cedar tones fold into tangy acid and tannin structure. Drink now through 2007.—*J.L.*

## Austria

### Mantlerhof

Riesling Qualitätswein Trocken Kremstal Gedersdorfer Wieland 2002  
**92 points | \$40 | NA cases made**

Not showy at all, this Riesling nonetheless has concentration and depth, offering peach, apricot and citrus notes matched to a vivid structure. Good lingering finish.—*B.S.*

### F.X. Pichler

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Von den Terrassen 2002  
**92 points | \$53 | 415 cases made**

Gorgeous aromas of flowers and peach, followed by intense flavors of peach and mineral in an elegant presentation. Well-integrated, yet it will be even better in three or four years. Nice refreshing finish.—*B.S.*

### Rudolf Pichler

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Weissenkirchner Achleiten 2002  
**92 points | \$55 | NA cases made**

Appealing from start to finish. Aromatic and rich, with an opulence offset by the firm structure, this delivers apricot, mineral and white pepper notes in a dry, full-bodied style. Give it time to open. Best from 2005 through 2015.—*B.S.*

### Prager

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Weissenkirchen Klaus 2002  
**92 points | \$51 | NA cases made**

Aromatic and rich, yet fine and complex, displaying intense floral, vanilla cream, peach and mineral flavors. It's well-integrated and vibrant, with a fresh, stony finish. Marked by some carbonic gas now, so give it time. Best from 2005 through 2012.—*B.S.*

### Salomon-Undhof

Riesling Qualitätswein Trocken Kremstal Kremser Kögl Reserve 2002  
**92 points | \$39 | NA cases made**

This really sings now, combining orchard fruit and mineral flavors in a vibrant, elegant presentation. Light-bodied, yet beautifully balanced and long.—*B.S.*

# Italy

*Gianfranco Gallo stepped into his father, Stelio Gallo's, shoes as manager of the 99-acre family estate, Vie di Romans, in 1978, at the tender age of 18. In the intervening years, this quiet but dynamic young man has turned Vie di Romans into one of the finest estates for white wine in the whole of Italy's northeast. His wines are characterized by rich, mature fruit character and fine balance. Gallo says he learned his trade "on the job," but he has also built up his database of knowledge with trips to France and California to visit wineries and talk to winemakers. The estate used to be known simply as Stelio Gallo, but to avoid confusion with the better-known Gallo winery in the U.S., the family changed the name to Vie di Romans in 1986. Any white-wine fancier should try these wines—you won't have to pay the earth for them, either. See also Hot Wines, page 4.—J.S.*

## Vie di Romans

Isonzo del Friuli Flors di Uis 2001

**91 points | \$30 | 250 cases imported**

Flors di Uis is local dialect for "flower of the vine." This is a blend of local varieties Malvasia Istriana (45 percent) and Tocai Friulano (20 percent), with 35 percent Riesling Renano, a reminder of the historic influence of Austria in the region. The wine is complex, complete with almond, apple pie, spice and lemon character. Full-bodied, with good acidity and a long, long finish. Very interesting indeed. Why drink white Burgundy?—J.S.

## Vie di Romans

Sauvignon Isonzo del Friuli Piere 2001

**91 points | \$30 | 350 cases imported**

From the 18-acre Piere vineyard, this is a fully mature white, though not late-harvest style, made entirely in stainless steel. Exotic and rich, with very ripe pineapple and honey character. Full-bodied, with lovely acidity and a lavender, floral and fruity finish. Very long. Like a cross between New Zealand and France.—J.S.

## Vie di Romans

Pinot Grigio Isonzo del Friuli Dessimis 2001

**90 points | \$30 | 400 cases imported**

This barrel-fermented Pinot Grigio is also a single-vineyard white, and spends a year aging in one-third new French oak barrels. Rich and powerful, with apple, bread dough and pear character. Full-bodied, with a long finish. Loads of character. Needs time still. Best after 2004.—J.S.

## Vie di Romans

Sauvignon Isonzo del Friuli Vieris 2001

**90 points | \$30 | 250 cases imported**

To protect the integrity of the natural Sauvignon aromas, Gallo ages this single-vineyard wine partly in barrels and partly in larger *tonneaux* and uses only 10 percent new wood. This is a rich and exotic Sauvignon with cream, grapefruit and light grass character. Full-bodied, with fresh acidity and a long, ripe fruit aftertaste. Stylish.—J.S.

# Portugal

*The Douro, home of famed Port estates, has become the leading region for red table wines from Portugal. Over the last year, the Douro has raced ahead with an impressive array of outstanding releases. Most are blends of native Portuguese grapes, most notably the full-flavored Touriga Nacional. With their distinctive flavors and firm structures, these reds merit your attention. See also Hot Wines, page 4.—K.M.*

## Quinta de Roriz

Douro Reserva 2001

**91 points | \$24 | 500 cases imported**

Full-bodied, deep-colored and rich, with lip-smacking flavors of dark plum, blackberry jam, cocoa and a hint of French roast. Tannins build on the finish, but with an appealing silkiness; dark chocolate notes go on and on. A fine value. Drink now through 2008.—K.M.

## Dos Vinhos Vale da Corça

Douro Brunheda Vinhas Velhas 2000

**90 points | \$65 | 30 cases imported**

Distinctive and full-bodied, with an intense aroma of Mediterranean spice and a pool of like flavors, as well as dark plum, cassis, blackberry and mocha. Expressive and hedonistic, like a dry-style Port. Best from 2005 through 2009.—K.M.

## Dos Vinhos Vale da Corça

Douro Encostas do Tua Reserva 2000

**90 points | \$30 | 50 cases imported**

Ripe and dense, with plenty of Port-like grip and a good backbone of acidity. This is a full-throttle red, with a meaty aroma and deep, rich layers of plum, spice and smoke. Best from 2005 through 2008.—K.M.

# HOT WINES

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

## Siduri

Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Cargasacchi Vineyard 2002  
**94 points | \$45 | 120 cases made**

Wonderful aromas of rich wild berry and blackberry, with pretty, light toasty oak shadings and fresh earth scents, this is a remarkably complex and concentrated youngster, with deep, intense, polished flavors and excellent structure, finishing with a burst of plush blueberry. Drink now through 2010. *From California.*—J.L.

## Vie di Romans

Chardonnay Isonzo del Friuli Vie di Romans 2001  
**93 points | \$30 | 300 cases imported**

This barrel-fermented Chardonnay comes from a nearly 13-acre single vineyard on the estate. Two thirds of the grapes were picked in September, while Gallo let the remaining third hang on the vine for a few weeks, giving the wine a light late-harvest character. The wine spends a year in barrel, followed by another year in bottle before release. This is so, so good, with a complete nose of ripe apples, vanilla and minerals. Full-bodied, with lovely acidity and a long, lively finish with loads of ripe fruit character. Fantastic. *From Italy.*—J.S.

## Krutzler

Qualitätswein Trocken Südburgenland Perwolff 2001  
**92 points | \$60 | NA cases made**

Perwolff is the Carolingian name for the village of Deutsch-Schützen in South Burgenland, where Krutzler is located. The grapes come from selected vineyards in the Weinberg, Alter Weingarten, Eisenberg and Bründelgfangen sites on loam and slate soils. This is a stunning 2001, exhibiting concentrated black cherry, cassis and licorice notes enmeshed in a suave yet almost chewy texture. It's so dense it takes on a tarry element, yet also maintains a sense of grace and harmony. Blaufränkisch and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2010. *From Austria.*—B.S.

## Ramos-Pinto

Douro Duas Quintas Reserva 2000  
**92 points | \$36 | NA cases imported**

Essence of blackberry, black cherry and cassis define this deep-flavored red from one of the Douro's table-wine pioneers. This has a Port-like aroma and loads of smoke and spice notes, which fold into the rich, intense finish. Drink now through 2008. *From Portugal.*—K.M.

## Wine Spectator's Tastings

*Wine Spectator* reviews more than 10,000 wines each year; our senior editors comprise the most experienced staff of professional wine tasters of any publication in the world. Each editor specializes in the wines of specific regions; their initials identify the taster of each wine reviewed.

We always taste wines blind, in our offices in San Francisco, Napa, New York and Tuscany, and in the vineyard regions of Europe. This is your guarantee that a wine's reputation or price does not influence its score. We score wines using our 100-point scale, explained below.

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

**Per-Henrik Mansson** Senior editor, Switzerland  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1987. Tasting beat: Burgundy, Rhône Valley

**Kim Marcus** Managing editor, New York  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Languedoc-Roussillon/Midi, Portugal

### Wine Spectator's 100-Point Scale

95-100	Classic
90-94	Outstanding
85-89	Very Good
80-84	Good
70-79	Average
50-69	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: Loire Valley, South Africa, South America

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

**Harvey Steiman** Editor at large, San Francisco  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: Australia, New Zealand, Oregon, Washington

**James Suckling** European bureau chief, Italy  
Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1981. Tasting beat: Bordeaux, Italy, Port

**Daniel Sogg** Tasting Staff