

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

THE *Wine Spectator Insider* features four classic-rated West Coast wines this week, and another three classics from Italy. From California, James Laube reviews 17 more Pinot Noirs from the increasingly impressive 2007 vintage. (For more 2007 California Pinot Noir reviews, see the May 26, June 1 and June 8 California Tasting Highlights.) Three of the Pinots featured in this issue earn 96 points; you'll find them among the Hot Wines, on page 4. Also here are a pair of 2006 California Pinots, as well as an outstanding Napa Merlot reviewed by Tim Fish.

The top-scoring wine in this report, however, comes from Washington, where Harvey Steiman awards 98 points to a limited-production dessert wine with a track record for classic ratings. Syrahs, Cabernets and other red blends round out this week's selection of Washington wines. Finally, James Suckling reviews a half-dozen Barolos from the outstanding 2005 vintage in Italy's Piedmont region.

Washington

SAINT LAURENT

Syrah Wahluke Slope 2006

91 points | \$21 | 700 cases made | Red

Bright and flavorful. A juicy mouthful of rose petal-accented plum flavors that linger easily against refined tannins. Best from 2010 through 2016.—H.S.

SAINT LAURENT

Cabernet Sauvignon Wahluke Slope 2006

92 points | \$28 | 500 cases made | Red

Smooth and ripe. There's enough finesse for this to play its black cherry, pomegranate and blackberry fruit against polished tannins and lively acidity, with an open feel to the texture. Drink now through 2016.—H.S.

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.

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, 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

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

Tasting staff:

Jo Cooke (Veneto),
Tim Fish (California),
Alison Napjus (Alsace),
MaryAnn Worobiec (California)

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