

A FIRST LOOK AT OUR EDITORS' MOST EXCITING NEW WINES

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THIS week's *Wine Spectator Insider* features outstanding wines from California, Italy and Washington. Tuscany takes top billing in this edition—James Suckling reviews 15 new Brunellos di Montalcino from the impressive 2004 vintage. A classic-rated Sangiovese leads the Hot Wines, on page 4.

Also in this issue, James Laube covers outstanding Pinot Noirs, Cabernets and Chardonnays from California, including a 91-point full-bodied Edna Valley Chardonnay priced at just \$20. There's also a handful of exciting new California Zinfandels reviewed by Tim Fish. Finally, you'll find Harvey Steiman's newest tasting notes on Syrahs from Washington, most of them made in the state's very successful 2004 vintage.

California

SOJOURN

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Sangiacomo Vineyard 2007
92 points | \$48 | 470 cases made | Red

Minty bay leaf and ripe, juicy wild berry fruit join together in this full-bodied effort, gaining richness and body and picking up a cola note. Ends with a long, persistent finish. Drink now through 2013.—J.L.

ST. CLEMENT

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Oroppas 2006
92 points | \$55 | 5,072 cases made | Red

Ultrarich and concentrated, delivering plush blackberry, currant, black cherry and spicy anise flavors that are pure, focused and full-bodied, with a long, persistent finish that ends with a supple texture. Best from 2011 through 2017.—J.L.

VALDEZ

Zinfandel Rockpile Rockpile Road Vineyard 2006
92 points | \$38 | 642 cases made | Red

Ripe, briary and full of personality. Offers aromas of dried sage and wild berry, with dense yet still supple huckleberry, cracked pepper and dried anise flavors that linger toward ripe but rustic tannins. Drink now through 2014.—T.F.

ARMANINO

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley The Whitewing Amber Ridge 2007

91 points | \$49 | 200 cases made | Red

Mixes savory herb, loamy earth, cola and dried currant and berry flavors in a tight, focused style. Full-bodied and intense without being heavy, ending with gripping, spice-laced tannins. Drink now through 2014.—J.L.

ARMIDA

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Bacigalupi Vineyard 2007
91 points | \$39 | 220 cases made | Red

Rich and savory, with fleshy, full-bodied soy-laced porcini, ripe berry, cola and herb notes, giving this a complex range of flavors. Finishes with supple tannins. Drink now through 2013.—J.L.

DAVID ARTHUR

Chardonnay Napa Valley 2007
91 points | \$42 | 130 cases made | White

Ripe and sweet-tasting, this full-bodied Chardonnay shows fresh, vibrant tangerine, fig and melon fruit, ending with an effusively fruity aftertaste. Drink now through 2012.—J.L.