

Wine Spectator Weekly

Internet Only

Marvin R. Shanken, Editor and Publisher

GET WINE SPECTATOR RATINGS HERE FIRST—EVERY THURSDAY

Is Bordeaux expensive? Is the Pope Catholic? But hold on. Before you accept “what everyone knows” as true, check out James Suckling’s recommendations from Bordeaux’s very good 2001 vintage. Selecting from among blind tastings of more than 500 reds from 2001, Suckling has picked out 13 wines that achieved outstanding scores yet sell for \$25 or less.

White-wine lovers will find exotic Grüner Veltliners from Austria and crowd-pleasing Chardonnays from California in this issue. And don’t miss the Hot Wines, on page 4.

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.

Prager

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau

Weissenkirchen Achleiten 2002

93 points | \$43 | NA cases made

Sleek and minerally, this expresses the site more than the grape, yet it has the telltale grapefruit and white pepper notes. Very tight and backward at this point, with an expansive midpalate, this will be a beauty in time. Terrific finish. Best from 2005 through 2015. *From Austria.*—B.S.

Austria

Austrian Riesling has its own distinct character—orchard fruits, flowers, occasionally tropical fruit, but always a keen mineral element—that sets it apart from its Alsace and German counterparts. Full-bodied and dry, these wines come from low-yielding, rocky vineyards along the Danube and its tributaries, the Krems and Kamptal rivers. With careful selection, the 2002 vintage offered ripe, healthy fruit with firm structures and focused flavors. While delicious young, the following top examples will benefit from two to four years in the bottle and will evolve for an additional 10 to 15 years.—B.S.

Prager

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Weissenkirchen
Achleiten 2002

93 points | \$51 | NA cases made

Intense and tightly wound, with peach and mineral flavors wrapped around the firm structure. Yet this has complexity and length and a well-integrated presentation. Best from 2005 through 2015.—*B.S.*

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 Malmson Senior editor, Switzerland
Joined Wine Spectator in 1987. Tasting beat:
Burgundy, Rhône Valley

Kim Marcus Managing editor, New York
Joined Wine Spectator in 1986. 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