

# Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

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**THIS** week, *Wine Spectator's Insider* focuses on Europe, featuring more than 30 wines from Austria, France and Germany. Kim Marcus reviews 16 Austrian Rieslings from the 2008 vintage, including new wines from F.X. Pichler and Prager. You'll find four classic-rated Austrian whites on page 4 of this issue, designated as Hot Wines; one of them earns 97 points.

James Suckling highlights red wines from the 2007 vintage in Bordeaux's St.-Emilion this week, including outstanding new wines from Château Ausone and Cheval-Blanc. Finally, Bruce Sanderson looks at Riesling spätlesen from the Nahe region in Germany. All of them come from the 2008 vintage, which is particularly suited to the spätlese style.

## Austria

### F.X. PICHLER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Loibner  
Steinertal 2008

**95 points | \$69 | 20 cases imported | White**

An effusively fruity aroma is followed by rich, concentrated flavors of red peach, quince, ripe apple and glazed pear. Very lush mid-palate, with a elegant array of spice and honey cream on the long finish. Drink now through 2020.—*K.M.*

### PRAGER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Kaiserberg 2008

**95 points | \$50 | 25 cases imported | White**

Delicate aromas and flavors of savory herb, pear and baked apple are flanked by notes of cream, along with rich nutmeg and cardamom notes. The mineral-infused finish is pure and fresh, with plenty of powerfully ripe overtones that provide heft. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

### F.X. PICHLER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Loibner  
Oberhauser 2008

**94 points | \$50 | 30 cases imported | White**

Starts off racy and elegant and revs up with rich, fruity flavors of red peach, Meyer lemon and gala apple. The powerful finish is full of ripe spiced flavors and intense creamy notes. Shows plenty of pedigree. Best from 2011 through 2019.—*K.M.*

### RUDI PICHLER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Weissenkirchner  
Steinriegl 2008

**94 points | \$65 | 15 cases imported | White**

Elegant, with a razor's edge balance to the fruit, spice and acidity. Intense red peach and Bosc pear flavors are accented by notes of quince and fennel. The mouthwatering finish shows slate and citrus. Needs some time in the cellar. Best from 2011 through 2018.—*K.M.*

### PRAGER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Klaus 2008

**94 points | \$70 | 50 cases imported | White**

Concentrated, fresh and juicy, showing rich, ripe flavors of peach, pear and apple, with plenty of spice and hints of tropical fruit. There's cream and honey on the broad, focused finish, with hints of anise. Drink now through 2016.—*K.M.*

### PRAGER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Wachstum  
Bodenstein 2008

**93 points | \$70 | 50 cases imported | White**

Intensely juicy and well-structured, with a broad spectrum of rich, white fruit flavors and lovely cream and spice notes. The long, ripe finish is supported by slate and sea salt. Drink now through 2018.—*K.M.*

## F.X. PICHLER

Riesling Federspiel Trocken Wachau Urgestein

Terrassen 2008

**92 points | \$40 | 40 cases imported | White**

A racy style, with concentrated flavors of Fuji apple, mineral and glazed citrus. There are hints of tropical fruit midpalate, with a lightly spiced finish that features plenty of dry extract. Drink now through 2015.—*K.M.*

## F.X. PICHLER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Loibner Berg 2008

**92 points | \$79 | 40 cases imported | White**

Concentrated aromas and flavors of apple, spice and apricot are flanked by intense spice and mineral notes. Lush and creamy on the long finish. Drink now through 2017.—*K.M.*

## RUDI PICHLER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Wösendorfer

Kirchweg 2008

**91 points | \$65 | 25 cases imported | White**

There's fine focus to the ripe peach and apple flavors, which are accented by notes of citrus and allspice. The broad finish is powerful, long and balanced by firm acidity. Drink now through 2016.—*K.M.*

## RUDI PICHLER

Riesling Federspiel Trocken Wachau Wachauer 2008

**90 points | \$40 | 100 cases imported | White**

Finely focused and elegant, with floral and fruity aromas that lead to delicate flavors of peach, pippin apple and citrus. Features notes of piecrust on the mineral-laden finish. Drink now through 2014.—*K.M.*

## PRAGER

Riesling Federspiel Trocken Wachau Steinriegl 2008

**90 points | \$35 | 300 cases imported | White**

This really sings with bright acidity supporting the intense yet refined flavors of peach, apple, pear and toast. Slate notes are vibrant and add weight to the fresh, juicy finish. Drink now through 2016.—*K.M.*

## PRAGER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Hollerin 2008

**90 points | \$55 | 25 cases imported | White**

Creamy and ripe, with peach cobbler and baked apple flavors that are well-spiced and very broad midpalate. Features custard and allspice on the finish. Drink now through 2015.—*K.M.*

# France Bordeaux

## CHÂTEAU AUSONE

St.-Emilion 2007

**91 points | \$865 | 1,635 cases made | Red**

Berry and milk chocolate aromas, with hints of flowers, follow through to a medium-to-full body, with very silky tannins and a delicious, fruity finish. Subtle and pretty, balanced and gorgeous. So refined and caressing. Best after 2013.—*J.S.*

## CHÂTEAU CHEVAL-BLANC

St.-Emilion 2007

**91 points | \$580 | 4,250 cases made | Red**

Starts off with loads of fresh herB.S. that turn to black licorice and sweet blackberry on the nose. Full-bodied, with a big, soft and velvety tannin structure. Long and caressing, with wonderful texture for the vintage. Really builds on the palate. So delicious already. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

## CHÂTEAU BELLEVUE-MONDOTTE

St.-Emilion 2007

**90 points | \$283 | NA cases made | Red**

Dark-colored and very spicy, with meat, dark fruits and cigar box aromas. Full-bodied, with loads of fruit and masses of new wood. Impresses me with its opulence and structure for the vintage. Needs time in the bottle. Best after 2013.—*J.S.*

## CHÂTEAU LA FLEUR MORANGE

St.-Emilion 2007

**90 points | \$67 | 835 cases made | Red**

Shows very focused aromas of blackberry and aniseed. Subtle and interesting on the nose. Medium- to full-bodied, with ultra-fine tannins and a mineral and berry aftertaste. This is made from about 5 acres of clay and sandy soils. Average age of vines: 100 years! Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

## CHÂTEAU GRAND CORBIN

St.-Emilion 2007

**90 points | \$NA | 6,665 cases made | Red**

Displays sweet plum and raspberry on the nose, with floral notes. Very fruity, yet balanced and pretty. Full-bodied, with fine tannins and a fresh finish. A Burgundian style. You can't help but get excited about the pretty fruit in this. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## MAGREZ FOMBRAUGE

St.-Emilion 2007

**90 points | \$133 | 155 cases made | Red**

Wonderful aromas of blackberry and spice oak follow through to full body, with light Christmas pudding and plum flavors and plenty of toasty wood. Long and rich on the finish. Very well done for the vintage. Much better than from barrel. Best after 2013.—*J.S.*

## LA MONDOTTE

St.-Emilion 2007

**90 points | \$160 | 270 cases made | Red**

There's lovely licorice, berry and milk chocolate aromas in this young wine. Full-bodied, with fine tannins and a pretty core of ripe fruit. Balanced and delicious already, but be patient. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## CHÂTEAU TROPLONG-MONDOT

St.-Emilion 2007

**90 points | \$80 | 5,000 cases made | Red**

Shows blackberry and blueberry on the nose, with hints of wet earth. Medium- to full-bodied, with slightly chewy tannins and lots of new wood. Really polished. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

# Germany

## Nahe

### SCHÄFER-FRÖHLICH

Riesling Spätlese Nahe Bockenauer Felseneck 2008

**94 points | \$35 | 165 cases made | White**

A swath of saline and mineral flavors and racy acidity define this complex white, which is cool, yet not reserved, with layers of black currant, herb, peach, persimmon and stone elements that play out on the long aftertaste. Best from 2012 through 2024.—*B.S.*

### H. DÖNNHOFF

Riesling Spätlese Nahe Niederhäuser

Hermannshöhle 2008

**93 points | \$76 | NA cases made | White**

There's nice ripeness to this, attaining peach and apricot flavors, with a touch of orange. This is slim and heightened by the bright acidity, ending with a cleansing note of citrus. Best from 2012 through 2024.—*B.S.*

### EMRICH-SCHÖNLEBER

Riesling Spätlese Nahe Monzinger

Frühlingsplätzchen 2008

**93 points | \$40 | 15 cases imported | White**

A delicious combination of peach, nectarine, ruby grapefruit and mineral notes that work in tandem, driven by the vibrant structure. There's a lingering, tangy, mouthwatering finish. Hard not to drink this now. Drink now through 2023.—*B.S.*

### H. DÖNNHOFF

Riesling Spätlese Nahe Norheimer Kirschheck 2008

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

This is pure and translucent, allowing its pear, apple and stone aromas and flavors to shine. Precision balance and fine length complete the profile. Best from 2011 through 2023.—*B.S.*

## H. DÖNNHOFF

Riesling Spätlese Nahe Oberhäuser Brücke 2008

**92 points | \$67 | NA cases made | White**

Cool and refreshing, like a gust of fresh air on a hot day. Passion fruit, pear, quince and grapefruit notes are interspersed with the vibrant structure. There's a fine aftertaste of fresh orchard fruit and mineral. Drink now through 2021.—*B.S.*

## H. DÖNNHOFF

Riesling Spätlese Nahe Schlossböckelheimer

Kupfergrube 2008

**91 points | \$62 | NA cases made | White**

A crisp, elegant white, with flavors of citrus, peach and stone. All the elements are well-integrated, and the finish is long and detailed. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

## KRUGER-RUMPF

Riesling Spätlese Nahe Münsterer Dautenpflänzer 2008

**91 points | \$28 | NA cases made | White**

Shy in aroma, with vivid apple, violet and grapefruit flavors fixed by racy acidity. Superlight in weight, yet intense, with a long, mouthwatering finish. Best from 2012 through 2024.—*B.S.*

## PRINZ ZU SALM-DALBERG

Riesling Spätlese Nahe Roxheimer Berg 2008

**91 points | \$49 | 110 cases made | White**

An incisive, scintillating white that grabs your attention with its bite of fruity acidity, which offsets the richness. In between there's a mix of lemon pie, apple, vanilla sauce and mineral flavors. The finish is long. Best from 2012 through 2024.—*B.S.*

## SCHÄFER-FRÖHLICH

Riesling Spätlese Gold Cap Nahe Bockenauer

Felseneck 2008

**91 points | \$57 | 165 cases made | White**

Lean and racy, with nectarine, grapefruit and passion fruit flavors converging on the steely finish. Like a jolt of electricity to the palate now, so give this time to mellow. Best from 2014 through 2024.—*B.S.*

## EMRICH-SCHÖNLEBER

Riesling Spätlese Nahe Monzinger Halenberg 2008

**90 points | \$45 | 15 cases imported | White**

Intense grapefruit and passion fruit aromas and flavors mark this effusive Riesling, which stays linear and direct, thanks to the vivid structure. There's plenty of snap on the finish. Best from 2012 through 2023.—*B.S.*

# 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.

## PRAGER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Achleiten 2008  
**97 points | \$60 | 50 cases imported | White**

Gloriously creamy and rich, with powerful white fruit and spice flavors that are supported by precise acidity. There's mouthwatering intensity to the apricot, apple and peach flavors mid-palate. The finish lingers with vanilla and white chocolate. Drink now through 2020. *From Austria.—K.M.*

## F.X. PICHLER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Dürnsteiner  
Hollerin 2008  
**96 points | \$58 | 30 cases imported | White**

Very layered and elegant, with wave after wave of rich white fruit and spice flavors that are supported by firm acidity and plenty of fresh glazed citrus notes. There's mineral and cream on the long, full finish. A mouthwatering expression of Riesling. Drink now through 2019. *From Austria.—K.M.*

## PRAGER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Steinriegl 2008  
**95 points | \$55 | 25 cases imported | White**

This rich, ripe and powerful Riesling has an intensely fruity and spicy aroma, with flavors of glazed white fruits, melon, pear and Gala apple. Long and lush on the mineral-filled finish, which features hints of smoked sausage. Drink now through 2020. *From Austria.—K.M.*

## RUDI PICHLER

Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Weissenkirchner  
Achleiten 2008  
**95 points | \$95 | 10 cases imported | White**

A full-bore style, with ripe aromas and flavors of Fuji apple, pear, glazed apricot and peach compote. Notes of smoked meat and plenty of spice fill the medium-weight finish, which features hints of sea salt and white pepper. Drink now through 2018. *From Austria.—K.M.*

## WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

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

*Wine Spectator's* tasting staff includes 14 people in three 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 Napa, New York and Tuscany. 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

**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:  
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**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,  
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**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:  
**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