

**Kracher**

Trockenbeerenauslese Neusiedlersee Grande Cuvée Nouvelle Vague No. 6 2000  
**93 points | \$70/375ml | 330 cases made**

Racy and intensely flavored, showing candied citrus, clove and honey notes. The texture is a little grainier and less supple than the best in this group, yet it's tasty and persistent.—*B.S.*

**Kracher**

Muscat Ottonel Trockenbeerenauslese Neusiedlersee Zwischen den Seen No. 2 2000  
**91 points | \$70/375ml | 75 cases made**

Delicious. Delicate and pure, this offers rose petal, pine and honey aromas and flavors matched to a lively structure and lightweight frame. Beautifully balanced, with a lingering finish.—*B.S.*

**Kracher**

Scheurebe Trockenbeerenauslese Neusiedlersee Zwischen den Seen No. 5 2000  
**91 points | \$65/375ml | 250 cases made**

This reels in Scheurebe's assertiveness, coaxing grapefruit and pineapple flavors with tantalizing acidity, ending with a long honey aftertaste.—*B.S.*

**Kracher**

Traminer Trockenbeerenauslese Neusiedlersee Nouvelle Vague No. 1 2000  
**90 points | \$55/375ml | 145 cases made**

Tasty. Light on its feet and full of spice box flavors—cinnamon, clove, ginger and white pepper—accented by citrus and floral notes. It's all balanced by the vivid structure. Good as an aperitif or with soft cow's milk cheeses.—*B.S.*

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## Washington

**L'Ecole No. 41**

Cabernet Sauvignon Walla Walla Valley 2000  
**92 points | \$36 | 1,188 cases made**

L'Ecole hits the mark with its Walla Walla Cab. It may not be vineyard designated, but who cares when it's so ripe, rich and complex? Tightly reined in around the edge, it focuses the coffee-scented black-

berry, currant, cherry and chocolate flavors into a bright beam that lasts and lasts on the generous, spicy finish. Drink now through 2010.—*H.S.*

**L'Ecole No. 41**

Merlot Walla Walla Valley 2000  
**91 points | \$33 | 764 cases made**

Only a step behind the gorgeous Cabernet, L'Ecole's Walla Walla Merlot is firm and beautifully focused. With 19 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 6 percent Cabernet Franc, it's a wine revealing distinct, complex flavors on a tightly wound frame, leading its cedary berry, cherry and dusky spice character into a long finish. Best from 2005 through 2009.—*H.S.*

**Arbor Crest**

Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2000  
**90 points | \$24 | 1,452 cases made**

Arbor Crest has rebounded in the past several years from a series of ho-hum vintages to delightful wines like this one. It's bright and generous, with ripe berry and dried cherry flavors at the core, under a layer of spicy oak, melding nicely as the flavors persist on a solid finish. Drink now through 2006.—*H.S.*

**Owen Sullivan**

Cabernet Franc Washington Champoux Vineyard 2001  
**90 points | \$30 | 250 cases made**

Winemaker Bill Owen has been in the wine trade for 25 years, but has made wine in his Seattle-area winery only since 1998. Partner Rob Sullivan is a retired banker. Champoux is one of Columbia Valley's most venerable vineyards, and it shows in this ripe, generous wine, relatively light and supple in texture, a lovely mouthful of cherry and cream flavors, hinting at white pepper on the generous, tangy finish. Drink now through 2006.—*H.S.*

**Owen Sullivan**

Cabernet Sauvignon Washington 2000  
**90 points | \$25 | 200 cases made**

This small winery's Cabernet Sauvignon is worth seeking out for its finesse and generosity, a lovely mouthful of fresh plum and berry flavors shaded with coffee and spice, melded together beautifully through the fine, lengthy finish. Drink now through 2010.—*H.S.*

# 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.

## Kistler

Chardonnay Cameros Hyde Vineyard 2000  
95 points | \$60 | 538 cases made

Ultrarich, almost syrupy, with a gorgeous core of ripe buttery pear, honey, pineapple and citrus flavors that are amazingly well-focused, finishing with a tight beam of flavor that zings across the palate, enlivened by juicy acidity. *From California.—J.L.*

## Kracher

Chardonnay Trockenbeerenauslese Neusiedlersee  
Nouvelle Vague No. 3 2000  
95 points | \$65/375ml | 215 cases made

Liquid candy. White chocolate, butterscotch, vanilla cream and citrus all come to mind as this white caresses the palate. Intensely flavored, yet very sleek and graceful, with a long finish that combines chocolate and toasted nuts. *From Austria.—B.S.*

## Didier Dagueneau

Pouilly-Fumé Silex 2001  
94 points | \$60 | 1,665 cases made

## Didier Dagueneau

Pouilly-Fumé Pur Sang 2001  
93 points | \$42 | 1,915 cases made

Didier Dagueneau's two top wines are consistently outstanding. In the '01 vintage I preferred the Silex's remarkable precision just a notch over the Pur Sang's remarkable power.

It's hard to imagine Sauvignon Blanc delivering more harmony or precision than the Silex. Straw, melon, white peach and macadamia nut flavors glide along, while stone, mineral and lime notes ripple underneath, providing a terrific tug of war on the palate. Very, very long finish.

The Pur Sang is a powerhouse, with lemon curd, chamomile, honeysuckle, white peach and mineral notes on an incredibly lush frame, yet it's all supported by riveting acidity. Terrific cut and length here, with remarkable persistence on the finish. *From France.—J.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

### 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

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

**Thomas Matthews** Executive editor, New York  
Joined Wine Spectator in 1988. Tasting beat: New York, Spain

**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

**James Molesworth, Daniel Sogg** Tasting Staff

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Alois Kracher's winery consists of 47 acres of vineyards around Neusiedler Lake in Austria's Burgenland region. Slightly less botrytis (90 percent) resulted in purer wines in 2000. The "Nouvelle Vague" bottlings are aged in 100 percent new oak; "Zwischen den Seen" in stainless steel.—B.S.

## Kracher

Chardonnay Trockenbeerenauslese Neusiedlersee  
Nouvelle Vague No. 7 2000  
97 points | \$70/375ml | 130 cases made

Not flamboyant, but concentrated and focused, its butterscotch, vanilla and apricot flavors unfolding bit by bit until they coat the palate. The bright acidity lends support and keeps it all together. Endless finish. Best from 2004 through 2015. *From Austria.*—B.S.

## Kracher

Scheurebe Trockenbeerenauslese Neusiedlersee  
Zwischen den Seen No. 9 2000  
95 points | \$80/375ml | 130 cases made

Luscious and ethereal at once, mingling honey and grapefruit notes with a creamy texture and bright structure. Well integrated and moderately

sweet, with a finish that lasts and lasts. Drink now through 2010. *From Austria.*—B.S.

## Kracher

Welschriesling Trockenbeerenauslese Neusiedlersee  
Zwischen den Seen No. 8 2000  
95 points | \$75/375ml | 130 cases made

Not as showy today as some of its peers, yet this promises plenty in the future. Thick and full of apricot, coconut and citrus notes, intensely sweet and offset by a lively structure, it's balanced and complex with a wonderful sense of harmony. The finish just melts away. Best from 2004 through 2012. *From Austria.*—B.S.

## Kracher

Welschriesling Trockenbeerenauslese Neusiedlersee  
Zwischen den Seen No. 10 2000  
95 points | \$80/375ml | 30 cases made

Extremely unctuous, sweet and mouthcoating, this seeps into the palate with honey and candied citrus flavors and stays there for a long time. It's impressive for its weight more than finesse, although there's good structure. Drink now through 2010. *From Austria.*—B.S.

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