

A FIRST LOOK AT OUR EDITORS' MOST EXCITING NEW WINES

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Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

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SINE QUA NON, SAXUM, SCHRAMSBERG, GAJA—this week's *Wine Spectator Insider* has the latest from plenty of heavy hitters in both California and Italy. Syrah, Grenache, Cabernet, Pinot and blends out of California, up to 95 points, show ingenuity in a range of regions, from Napa to Paso Robles. Look for the latest SQN The Duel Eleven Confessions Vineyard Syrah and Grenache, the Saxum Paderewski Vineyard blend, the Denner Ditch Digger, a pair of winners from Brian Benson and a 1997 Schramsberg 150th Anniversary cuvée.

This week's Italian offerings are Barbarescos, including the latest Gaja Sorì Tildin, Sorì San Lorenzo and Costa Russi bottlings (though these bear the Langhe appellation). There are also fine expressions from Bruno Rocca and Elvio Cogno, among others. Be sure to check out the six Hot Wines on page 4.

ITALY

PIEDMONT

FONTANABIANCA

Barbaresco Bordini 2009

93 points | \$58 | 100 cases imported | Red

This red starts out round and silky, with fresh acidity driving the cherry, spice and light menthol flavors. Pure and balanced, with well-integrated tannins and a long aftertaste. Best from 2015 through 2027.—*B.S.*

FONTANABIANCA

Barbaresco 2009

90 points | \$46 | 192 cases imported | Red

This red is loaded with licorice, spice and tobacco flavors, with cherry lurking in the background. Rich, yet remains sleek, with a chewy texture. Fresh and long, with a savory finish. Best from 2014 through 2024.—*B.S.*