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JAMESSUCKLING.COM 

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## WHAT WE TASTED LAST WEEK #12



Note from the editor: These weekly tasting reports used to pick out a few high-scoring highlights. Given that we taste so many wines each week, this series will now publish all the wines tasted in the previous week. The only exceptions will be wines tasted for special tasting reports to be published at a later date. There is a new sort function in the dropdown filter, so you can arrange the notes by COUNTRY. We hope you enjoy these new comprehensive reports with all the wines, scores and tasting notes from the past seven days. We certainly enjoyed tasting them. – JS

This week's top wines come courtesy of some highly respected producers across three countries: Australia, Italy and South Africa. The top scoring pair of pinot noir wines both rated 97 points and are from two of Australia's most respected cool-climate producers, Bindi in the Macedon Ranges and Oakridge in the Yarra Valley.

The 2016 Bindi Pinot Noir Kaye (97 points) is a "delicately nuanced and complex" pinot from a cool site in one of Victoria's most exciting regions with "immaculately fine tannins". This parcel is a diverse geological puzzle of mudstone, sandstone, quartz rock and clay with a covering of varying amounts of much younger, fine volcanic top soil. A tight selection of the best vats is released under the Kaye label.

Bindi has two more wines in this week's top selections, the 2019 Dixon Pinot Noir (96 points) and the 2019 Kostas Rind Chardonnay (96 points). These are two very polished, complete and powerful wines that show such refined fruit character and structure combined with insightful, refined winemaking. The Dixon Pinot Noir has pristine and intense cherry fruits combined with a "layered



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and succulent” palate and the Kostas Rind Chardonnay is so “dialled in and focused” with a “composed, long and balanced finish.”

I tasted Oakridge’s single site pinot noirs from the very consistent 2018 vintage and two iterations of pinot from the red volcanic soils of Woori Yallock’s Henk Vineyard are the highlights there. The 2018 Oakridge Pinot Noir 864 Henk Aqueduct Block (97 points) is a selection of the best pinot of the harvest and is a very complex pinot that “delivers such intensity and focus” as well as a “convincing finish.” The 2018 Oakridge Pinot Noir Henk (95 points) is “beautifully detailed” and “casts a long, velvety finish.”

The 2017 Marchesi Antinori Toscana Tignanello (96 points) is another strong showing from Tuscany’s 2017 harvest that delivers in the established theme of power, concentration and balance that we have seen define the region’s best wines. James described this as a “dense, really pinpointed red” with “fine, creamy tannins” and “shows real finesse for the vintage” with strong aging potential. Ornellaia’s Toscana Bianco 2017 (95 points) is a blend of sauvignon blanc and viognier that is “tight and solid with fine phenolics that give it structure and focus” and is an “extremely poised and dignified” white from this warm, dry season.

The Castello di Querceto Chianti Classico Gran Selezione La Corte 2017 (95 points) leads a solid procession of Chianti tasted last week by James in Hong Kong. It is a “rich, layered red” with bright cherry and orange peel with “firm, silky tannins and a fruity finish.” Wines from Cantalici, Borgo, Castello di Querceto, Tenuta di Arceno, Cecchi and Castello di Meleto are all impressive Chianti that share a 94-point rating.

And South Africa’s Mullineux from Swartland has a pair of 95 point wines covered this week, a syrah and a chenin blanc, both grown in the decomposed granite soils of the Paardeberg. The 2017 Mullineux Syrah Granite shows Cote-Rotie-like complexity with “smoked and grilled-meat undertones to the tile and crushed-stone” characters as well as “creamy and ripe tannins.” The 2018 Mullineux Chenin Blanc Granite is a “stony and floral” chenin with a “full-bodied, yet agile” palate that has trademark granitic terroir precision.

Precision and power define all this week’s best wines, enjoy the read!

– Nick Stock, executive editor

## **CECCHI CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA DI FAMIGLIA RISERVA 2017**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



Country Italy  
Region Tuscany  
Vintage 2017

Score  
**94**

This is a very intense, layered red with berry, chocolate and hazelnut aromas and flavors. Full body, creamy and lightly chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Powerful at the end. Best ever? Drink now.



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## **CECCHI CHIANTI CLASSICO VILLA CERNA PRIMOCOLLE 2017**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



**Country** Italy  
**Region** Tuscany  
**Vintage** 2017

**Score**  
**93**

A rich, layered red with cherry, plum and light chocolate character. Some tannin, too. Medium-bodied, creamy and beautiful. Drink or hold.

## **CECCHI MONTEFALCO BIANCO TENUTA ALZATURA ARIA DI CASA 2018**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



**Country** Italy  
**Region** Umbria  
**Vintage** 2018

**Score**  
**93**

A white with sliced apples, melon and hints of cream. It's full-bodied with a round, creamy-textured palate and a long, flavorful finish of cooked pears and apples. 100% trebbiano spoletino. Drink now.

## **VAL DELLE ROSE MAREMMA TOSCANA AURELIO 2017**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



**Country** Italy  
**Region** Tuscany  
**Vintage** 2017

**Score**  
**93**

Cherries and hints of citrus fruit and plums. It's full-bodied with round tannins and a fruity finish. Tight, fresh and concentrated for the vintage. Drink after 2022.

## **CECCHI MONTEFALCO TENUTA ALZATURA 2017**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



**Country** Italy  
**Region** Umbria  
**Vintage** 2017

**Score**  
**92**

Lots of juicy, ripe fruit with plums and crushed cherries. Full body, round and ripe tannins and plenty of pretty fruit. Flavorful finish. Slightly one-dimensional. Shows richness and generosity for the appellation. Drink now or hold.

## **CECCHI MORELLINO DI SCANSANO LA MORA 2019**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



**Country** Italy  
**Region** Tuscany  
**Vintage** 2019

**Score**  
**91**

Plenty of dried-cherry and orange character with some plums. Medium body, creamy tannins and a flavorful finish. Nicely crafted for the appellation. Drink now.

## **CECCHI VERMENTINO MAREMMA TOSCANA LA MORA 2019**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



**Country** Italy  
**Region** Tuscany  
**Vintage** 2019

**Score**  
**91**

A fresh, fruity white with sliced-apple and honey aromas and flavors. It's medium-bodied and delicious. Lightly salty at the end. Drink now.



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## **CECCHI MONTEFALCO SAGRANTINO TENUTA ALZATURA 2014**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



**Country** Italy  
**Region** Umbria  
**Vintage** 2014

**Score**  
**90**

A little hard and tannic, but there's some interesting blue fruit here, together with walnuts. Medium body and chewy tannins. A little dry at the end. Drink and enjoy now.

## **VAL DELLE ROSE MORELLINO DI SCANSANO 2018**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



**Country** Italy  
**Region** Tuscany  
**Vintage** 2018

**Score**  
**90**

A medium-bodied red with plums and cherries, as well as chocolate and spice undertones. Juicy and flavorful. Some chocolate and coffee, too. Drink now.

## **VAL DELLE ROSE VERMENTINO MAREMMA TOSCANA LITORALE 2019**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



**Country** Italy  
**Region** Tuscany  
**Vintage** 2019

**Score**  
**90**

Cooked apples and pears with some lemon undertones. It's medium-bodied with creamy texture and a long, flavorful finish. Drink now.

## **CASTELLO MONTAÙTO VERNACCIA DI SAN GIMIGNANO 2019**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



**Country** Italy  
**Region** Tuscany  
**Vintage** 2019

**Score**  
**88**

A fruity, relatively dense vernaccia with cooked-lemon and ripe-apple character. Some minerals. Medium body. Drink now.