



Joseph De Leo

## 10 California Rosés to Brighten Your Day

New reviews of intriguing pink wines from the 2013 vintage

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*Tasting Highlights bring the best wines from our editors' most recent tastings to WineSpectator.com members.*

Temperatures are rising here in California as summer approaches, and it's ideal weather for drinking rosé. This week's selection of new releases hails from the Golden State's promising 2013 vintage.

California is giving Europe a run for its money these days, as more and more winemakers realize that domestic pinks can be seriously good. It remains a niche market, since most wineries produce just a few hundred cases of rosé a year. But fans of the style remain a devoted bunch.

Good rosé is not easy to make. In the Old World, *saignée*—meaning “to bleed”—is the typical method of production. It involves pulling juice from a tank of red must that is just beginning to ferment. The idea is to intensify the red wine, with the byproduct being a pink wine.

*Saignée* is less successful in sunny California because the resulting wines often lack the all-important lively acidity of their European counterparts. Some producers, however, are beginning to harvest the grapes for rosé earlier in order to guarantee that level of vibrancy.

There's something for everyone in this group. Winemaker Ian Brand again makes one of the top pinks this year with his impressive Le P'tit Paysan Mourvèdre San Benito County Rosé, and Paso Robles' Tablas Creek affirms its Rhône credentials with two wines: Dianthus and Rosé Patelin de Tablas.

I'll be tasting a lot more rosé in the coming months and will continue to share my favorites with you. So sit back, adjust your shades and enjoy the sun.

**KALE Rosé Napa Valley 2013** *Score: 88 | \$22*

Delicate, showing a subtle richness, offering cherry and smoky herb aromas and crisp flavors of watermelon and spice. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now. 176 cases made. —*T.F.*

**LE P'TIT PAYSAN Mourvèdre San Benito County Rosé Pierre's Pirouette 2013** *Score: 91 | \$19*

Impeccably dry, yet supple, with dusty rose and apricot aromas and delicate peach and smoky watermelon flavors, ending with a clean, mineral finish. Drink now. 240 cases made. —*T.F.*

**TABLAS CREEK Dianthus Paso Robles 2013** *Score: 91 | \$27*

The aroma of this rosé alone wins you over, offering ripe and floral strawberry and spiced cinnamon notes, with succulent but crisp flavors of raspberry, orange zest and smoky mineral. Mourvèdre, Grenache and Counoise. Drink now. 1,050 cases made. —*T.F.*

**AMPELOS Syrah Santa Ynez Valley Rosé Upsilon: The Charged 2013** *Score: 89 | \$16*

Distinctively captures Syrah's gamy edge, offering smoky plum and strawberry aromas and zesty flavors that hint at deli meat and cracked pepper. Drink now. 619 cases made. —*T.F.*

**ADELAIDA Rosé Version Anna's Estate Vineyard Paso Robles 2013** *Score: 88 | \$20*

Appealing, with floral strawberry aromas and supple flavors of smoky raspberry and spice. Grenache Noir, Cinsault, Counoise and Mourvèdre. Drink now. 815 cases made. —*T.F.*

**BEDROCK Rosé Ode To Lulu Old Vine California 2013** *Score: 88 | \$24*

Supple and soft, with spicy strawberry aromas and lively flavors of smoky watermelon and brown spices. Mourvèdre, Grenache and Carignane. Drink now. 750 cases made. —*T.F.*

**MARGERUM Grenache San Luis Obispo County Rosé Riviera 2013** *Score: 88 | \$21*

Succulent raspberry and cream aromas pair with delicate watermelon and spiced peach flavors. Drink now. 750 cases made. —*T.F.*

**TABLAS CREEK Rosé Patelin de Tablas Paso Robles 2013** *Score: 88 | \$20*

A delicate style, with a light peach color and aromas of wild flowers and apricot, featuring crisp flavors of cantaloupe, watermelon and mineral. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Counoise. Drink now. 1,450 cases made.—*T.F.*

**CASEY FLAT RANCH Rose Capay Valley 2013** *Score: 86 | \$18*

Delicate but spicy, with creamy strawberry flavors. Syrah. Drink now. 205 cases made. —*T.F.*

**ERIC KENT Rosé Sonoma Coast 2013** *Score: 86 | \$20*

An unusual yet appealing blend, offering smoky raspberry aromas and subtle strawberry and orange zest flavors. Pinot Noir and Syrah. Drink now. 338 cases made. —*T.F.*