

ADVERTISEMENT




savor

Enjoy fresh Mediterranean tapas.



CELLAR360
SAN FRANCISCO

COMPLIMENTARY WINE TASTING ▶



Chronicle Wine Selections

Archive

Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon more than \$50

Lynne Char Bennett
Friday, November 14, 2008

PRINT E-MAIL SHARE COMMENTS (9) FONT SIZE: - + TOOLS SPONSOR: verizon wireless

Thoughts of holiday gifts arise this time of year. With the challenging economic times, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is becoming a luxury for an increasing number of wine aficionados, even as new Napa Valley wineries continue to open.

CHRONICLE WINE SELECTIONS

- Napa Valley Merlot 11.21.08
- Domestic Riesling 11.07.08
- The Chronicle Wine Selections: Ribera del Duero 10.31.08

[More Chronicle Wine Selections >](#)


Napa's cult Cab category still has waiting lists and is in constant demand despite its ever-rising price. Plenty of good Napa Cabernet is available; many bottles rise above the average, which is expected, given Napa Cabernet's worldwide reputation and its concomitant pricing. The 2005 vintage, which comprised the bulk of our tasting, is exceptional - consistent in quality, ripe and concentrated without

over-the-top levels of alcohol or tannin.

We tasted 83 varietally labeled bottlings, recommending those that earned at least 2 1/2 stars; at these prices, they should be much better than average.

Be prepared for the holidays by attending one of our appetizer and wine classes!

Tastings and discounts on wines are available. Appropriate for all interest levels and especially fun in groups!



CELLAR360
SAN FRANCISCO

LEARN MORE ▶

MOST COMMENTED MOST READ MOST E-MAILED

1. California to investigate Mormon aid to Prop 8
2. S.F. considers congestion tolls on cars
3. Prop. 8 backers splinter as court fight resumes
4. Mother, intruder killed in Peninsula home
5. 'Nice guy' fatally shot outside S.F. bar
6. Government bailout hits \$8.5 trillion
7. Fed says it will buy mortgage-related assets

TopJobs

PLANNING

Now - Dec 14

Rating: THREE STARS 2005 Tor Cimarossa Vineyard Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon (\$75) Red licorice, sarsaparilla, ripe sweet berry and fiery cinnamon aromas. Palate has coffee, oak vanillin, cherry highlights and finely grained tannins. Dense, ripe, powerful with a touch of alcohol of the finish. Winery only.

Rating: THREE AND A HALF STARS 2005 Tor Mast-Cimarossa Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (\$75) A stark floral, spicy nose beneath cassis, black cherry and tart, peppery notes with touch of dry hay. Concentrated fruit flavors on the bright palate; hints of dense oak with ripe, integrated tannins on the finish. Winery only