

Wine Spectator

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James Laube's Recommended California Cabernets

Nearly 700 wines were reviewed for this report. An alphabetical list of scores and prices for all wines tasted begins on page 78. WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Melanson Vineyard 2013 Explosive blackberry, currant, licorice and jazzy oak flavors lead to a spirited mix of fruit and earth, with caressing tannins.	97	\$200
SCHRADER CELLARS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard MMXIII 2013 Bold and powerful, this harmonious red offers a burst of juicy red and black fruits shaded by licorice, spice and oak.	96	\$400 1.5L
SCHRADER CELLARS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Colesworthy Beckstoffer Las Piedras Vineyard 2013 Combines power with finesse, offering blackberry, licorice, graphite, crushed rock and herb flavors that reverberate on the finish.	96	\$400 1.5L
SHAFFER Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Hillside Select 2012 Remarkably complex, layered and textured, this is smooth and supple, with a creamy mocha oak presence to the long aftertaste.	96	\$265
CAYMUS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Special Selection 2013 This zeroes in on a rich, hedonistic core of wild berry, blackberry, plum and currant flavors, with an elegant mouthfeel.	95	\$160
COLGIN IX Estate Napa Valley 2013 A powerful expression of rich, polished Cabernet, with layers of blackberry, licorice, kirsch, graphite and savory herb flavors.	95	\$550
HARLAN ESTATE Napa Valley 2013 A muscular, chunky, chewy, extracted style, showing remarkable fruit purity, with deep, penetrating berry and currant flavors.	95	\$NA
LEWIS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 2013 A silky entry leads off this elegant, rich and densely flavored effort, which ends with a wave of dark berry and spicy oak.	95	\$150
MEMENTO MORI Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2013 Strikingly complex, dense and detailed, with rich, saturated dark berry, light mocha, graphite, fresh earth and savory herb flavors.	95	\$175
SCARECROW Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2013 A dense, muscle-bound style that gives no quarter, with rich, chewy, extracted chocolate, dark berry, graphite and cedar flavors.	95	\$300
SCHRADER CELLARS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2013 Pure crushed berry and floral aromatics introduce this vibrant red, with cascading flavors of blackberry, anise, cedar and tobacco.	95	\$175
TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon 2013 Wonderfully complex in aroma and flavor, this rich version shows tiers of spicy oak, vivid dark berry, currant and plum flavors.	95	\$175

TOP WINES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Tierra Roja Vineyard 2013 Offers a distinctive core of rich dark cherry flavors, with a twinge of sour cherry candy amid the mix of red and dark fruit.	95	\$150
DAKOTA SHY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2014 Big and rich, yet deftly balanced and easy to approach, this showcases Cabernet in a harmonious, graceful pose, with tiers of flavor.	94	\$95
RIDGE Monte Bello Santa Cruz Mountains 2012 A beautifully structured wine, with a core of dense currant and blackberry fruit, turning juicy. Classic old-school Cabernet.	94	\$175
NEVERS Left Bank Red Napa Valley 2014 Puts zesty raspberry and wild berry at the fore for immediate appeal.	92	\$30
JOSEPH CARR Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2013 Offers a firm, tight core of graphite-laced blackberry and wild berry.	91	\$40
LOUIS M. MARTINI Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2013 A wholesome expression of earth- and graphite-driven Cabernet.	91	\$38
TERRA VALENTINE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2014 Pure and rich, with tiers of berry, currant and black licorice flavors.	91	\$34
KENDALL-JACKSON Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County Vintner's Reserve 2013 Drinks easy, yet offers substance and depth, An elegant style.	90	\$24
ROBERT MONDAVI Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2013 Rich and vibrant, featuring earthy blackberry and wild berry flavors.	90	\$28
BUEHLER Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Estate 2013 A supple, graceful, enjoyable style, with understated flavors.	89	\$36
FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley Director's Cut 2013 Silky and rich, with notes of vanilla, mocha, fleshy plum and cherry.	88	\$29
EBERLE Cabernet Sauvignon Paso Robles Vineyard Selection 2013 Well-structured, with currant, dark berry, anise and cedar notes.	88	\$22
FREI BROTHERS Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley Reserve 2013 Focused, with cedary oak, dried berry, sage and underbrush flavors.	88	\$27