

# Wine Spectator Buying Guide

April 30, 2017

## United States

### CALIFORNIA

#### Cabernet Sauvignon & Blends

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**95 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain Cimarossa Vineyard 2014 \$150** Combines power, authority and grace, with full-throttle Cabernet flavors built around wild berry, blackberry, currant, cedar, tobacco and licorice notes. This is defined by elegance, finesse and integrated tannins. Best from 2018 through 2030. 275 cases made. — *J.L.*

**94 Lewis Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Hillstone Vineyard 2014 \$150** Big and expressive, with a dense, extracted yet supple core of complex flavors built on tiers of mocha, blackberry, currant, plum and jazzy oak. This plays its cards close to the vest, but unfolds to offer layer after layer of nuance, enhanced for now by details of charry oak, vanilla bean and gravel. Best from 2020 through 2032. 175 cases made. — *J.L.*

**94 B Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Ehrlich Vineyard 2014 \$118** Combining size with finesse, this is a big, rich, juicy and supple-textured youngster, well-focused on a mix of black licorice, currant, dark berry, gravel and mocha-laced oak. Stays on point through a long, persistent finish. Best from 2018 through 2028. 650 cases made. — *J.L.*

**92 Dancing Hares Napa Valley 2013 \$150** For all its size, this is more nuanced than you might expect, as the rich core of dark berry, mocha and spice flexes tannic muscle. The flavors glide as this opens up, with the tannins working their way into a more agreeable mode. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2029. 850 cases made. — *J.L.*

**92 Nine Suns Houyi Vineyard Napa Valley 2013 \$250** A powerful expression of rich, extracted flavors built around mocha, dark berry, graphite, cedar and crushed rock. Though big, this is also graceful and well-balanced. Most impressive on the finish, where the aftertaste lingers. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Best from 2018 through 2029. 600 cases made. — *J.L.*

**90 Allen Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Audacieux 2013 \$250** Displays ripe, juicy, extracted blackberry and wild berry flavors, with touches of cherry, plum and fresh herb. Supple in texture, ending with spicy, toasty oak. Best from 2019 through 2029. 1,000 cases made. — *J.L.*