

# Wine Spectator Buying Guide

## United States

### CALIFORNIA

#### Cabernet Sauvignon & Blends

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**97 TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Melanson Vineyard 2013 \$200** Explosive blackberry, currant, licorice and jazzy oak lead to a spirited, soulful mix of fruit and dusty, loamy earth, with caressing tannins. Drink now through 2030. 200 cases made. — *J.L.*

**95 TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon 2013 \$175** This is rich and layered, showing wonderful complexity in aroma and flavor, with tiers of spicy oak, vivid wild berry and dark berry, currant and plum flavors, held together by refreshing acidity and firm, fine-grained tannins. The finish sails on and on. Drink now through 2032. 600 cases made. — *J.L.*

**95 TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Tierra Roja Vineyard 2013 \$150** Offers a distinctive core of rich dark cherry flavors, with a twinge of sour cherry candy amid the dense mix of red and dark fruit. The tannins are tight and gripping, holding on through the long, deep finish. Best from 2020 through 2035. 225 cases made. — *J.L.*

**94 Bryant Family Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2013 \$500** A bold, dense, expressive style that packs a punch, while also exhibiting grace and balance. The core flavors of blackberry, fresh-turned earth, licorice and tobacco show harmony. Ends long and tannic. Best to cellar this. Best from 2020 through 2032. 700 cases made. — *J.L.*

**94 Colgin Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Tychson Hill Vineyard 2013 \$550** Complex, with a range of flavor extending from espresso to mocha to smoky, toasty oak, adding depth and dimension to the firm core of chocolate-laced blackberry and wild berry. Ends with firm, ripe tannins and excellent length. Best from 2020 through 2033. 425 cases made. — *J.L.*

**94 Eisele Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2013 \$370** Pure and pleasantly focused, driven by a supple core of dark berry, licorice, sage, underbrush and mineral notes that stand up to the cedary oak. Ends long, deep and persistent, echoing the core flavor themes. Drink now through 2032. 1,600 cases made. — *J.L.*

**94 Ramey Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Pedregal Vineyard 2013 \$200** Shows impressive richness, size and grace. For all the depth and intensity, this features a supple, caressing element to the tannins, letting the earth, dried herb and dark berry flavors flow easily. The tannins linger in the background and then finish with a burst of licorice, spice, mocha and oak details. Best from 2019 through 2032. 615 cases made. — *J.L.*

**93 Cade Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain Reserve 2013 \$200** Creamy vanilla- and mocha-laced oak adds flavor and texture to the rich core of blackberry, wild berry, currant, plum and licorice. An impressive showing from start to finish. Drink now through 2030. 1,500 cases made. — *J.L.*

**93 Colgin Cariad Napa Valley 2013 \$550** Exhibits a tight bundle of rich, extracted dark berry, mocha, licorice, savory herb and underbrush flavors, with accents of smoky oak. A tour de force that is best served after a long decant or some cellar time. The finish is deep and extracted. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2020 through 2032. 900 cases made. — *J.L.*

**93 Joseph Phelps Insignia Napa Valley 2013 \$250** Rich and full-bodied, but exhibiting the lift of a brighter red. The dark berry flavors give this an elegant mouthfeel and ease the tannic strength. Tempting now but worth cellaring. Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2018 through 2032. 12,300 cases made. — *J.L.*

**93 Schrader Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley RBS Beckstoffer To Kalon 2013 \$175** A smoky, chappy oak overlay adds flavor and aroma, rounding out the tannins in this robust, chunky effort, with extracted licorice, blackberry, anise, loamy earth and tobacco details. Very tight and backward, so patience is required. Best from 2020 through 2033. 608 cases made. — *J.L.*

**93 Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2013 \$850** Pure and focused, with a tight, aromatic mix of loamy earth, graphite, lead pencil, dark berry and currant flavors. Slow to unfold, this shows a pleasing tannic grip. The gravelly berry flavors glide along on the finish. Best from 2020 through 2032. 800 cases made. — *J.L.*

**92 Bryant Family DB4 Napa Valley 2013 \$95** A rich, sophisticated effort, this is dense and robust, delivering tiers of zesty wild berry, blackberry, spice, oak, mocha and licorice notes. The flavors glide through the finish, with a grip of tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2028. 900 cases made. — *J.L.*

**92 Opus One Napa Valley 2013 \$285** Seductive from the get-go, with a supple entry to the layers of complexity, mixing flavors of mocha, currant, plum, licorice, spice and cedary oak. Well-proportioned, showing a grip of fine-grained tannins that will benefit from cellaring. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Drink now through 2028. 26,400 cases made. — *J.L.*