

Napa Cabernet 2019: full vintage report and top-scoring wines

California's premier Cabernet Sauvignon region has delivered a beautifully classic vintage in 2019, showcasing balance, energy and tension. Decanter's Napa correspondent Jonathan Cristaldi reviews the growing season and reveals the 63 wines from across the valley's appellations he rated 97 or above – including five perfect 100-point scores.

Jonathan Cristaldi
September 12, 2022

Napa Cabernet 2019 vintage verdict: 4.5 stars

A wet winter and cool spring delayed budbreak throughout most of the Napa Valley, while a warm, even growing season allowed for slow, phenolic maturity. The resulting Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant wines are fresh and vivid, with intense black fruits, savouriness and concentration. Very classic in style, with great balance, energy and tension, they exude upfront drinking pleasure but also have impeccable structure for long-term cellaring.

We have published more than 225 reviews online of 2019 Napa Cabernets for Decanter Premium subscribers which our correspondent Jonathan Cristaldi tasted (non blind) at the offices of the Napa Valley Vintners as well as at wineries and at home. Look out for AVA and value reports this week.



TOR, Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley, California, USA

98

Tasted by: Jonathan Cristaldi
(at Napa Valley Vintners office, St Helena, 12 Jun 2022)
Drinking Window: 2022 - 2050

Powerful, heady aromas of dense dark fruits and rich oak spices, accompanied by pie crust and baker's chocolate. Full-bodied with compact black and blueberry fruit notes, ground dark-roasted coffee beans, scorched earth and crushed stones. Massive sculpted tannins etch themselves into every corner of the palate and resolve nicely with mouthwatering freshness. Plenty of tension and energy. Built for the long haul.