

**ANNUAL CALIFORNIA CABERNET ISSUE**

# Wine Spectator

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**2007  
CABERNET**

**A STUNNING  
VINTAGE**

**MORE THAN 190  
RATE 90+**

**DISCOVER  
MONTEREY WINE  
COUNTRY**

**A PERFECT MATCH  
FROM SONOMA**

**CLASSIC WHITES  
FROM ALSACE**

**FRED  
SCHRADER**  
**A NEW STAR  
IN NAPA**

NOV. 15, 2010  
\$5.95 US





# JAMES LAUBE'S RECOMMENDED CALIFORNIA CABERNETS

Nearly 575 wines were reviewed for this report. An alphabetical list begins on page 79 and is available at [www.winespectator.com/111510](http://www.winespectator.com/111510). WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search.

## TOP WINES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>DANA Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford Helms Vineyard 2007</b> Slow to unfold, but once it does this reveals a complex mix of dried currant, black licorice, blackberry, sage and mineral.	<b>96</b>	<b>\$275</b>
<b>HARLAN ESTATE Napa Valley 2007</b> Intense and a bit rustic, with loamy earth, dried currant, black licorice, mocha, roasted herb, porcini and toasty oak.	<b>96</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>JOSEPH PHELPS Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Backus 2007</b> A stylish, elegant youngster, with vivid mocha-covered raspberry, blackberry and licorice flavors. Tight and focused.	<b>96</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>JOSEPH PHELPS Insignia Napa Valley 2007</b> Massive yet well-proportioned, with graphite, dried currant, berry, black tea and forest floor flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	<b>96</b>	<b>\$225</b>
<b>RAMEY Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Pedregal Vineyard 2007</b> Ripe and powerful, rich and chewy, with a dense core of loamy earth, caraway, dried currant, savory herb and mineral notes.	<b>96</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>SCHRADER CELLARS Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford GIII Beckstoffer Georges III Vineyard 2007</b> Broad, rich and layered, with creamy oak woven in with ripe currant and blackberry fruit. Full-blown and persistent.	<b>96</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>STAGLIN INEO Napa Valley 2007</b> An elegant style, with complex aromatics of ripe plum, blackberry, flowers, mocha and espresso. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	<b>96</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>VENGE Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Family Reserve 2007</b> A big, ripe style that's rough-hewn and chunky, yet deep and concentrated, with plum, cherry, red licorice and mineral notes.	<b>96</b>	<b>\$125</b>

## TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>COHO Headwaters Napa Valley 2007</b> Firm, rich, vibrant and focused, with a taut band of dried currant, mineral, plum and spice. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	<b>95</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>HALL Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2006</b> A dense, concentrated style, with mocha and black licorice hints rounding out the core currant, plum and black cherry flavors.	<b>94</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>ROUND POND ESTATE Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2007</b> Chewy and robust, with rich, focused flavors of blackberry, currant, cedar, herb and mineral, gaining depth and persistence.	<b>94</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>BEAULIEU VINEYARD Tapestry Reserve Napa Valley 2007</b> Structured and intense, with notes of spice, dried currant, blackberry, mocha, cedar and licorice. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	<b>93</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>RAMEY Claret Napa Valley 2007</b> Restrained, yet rich and flavorful, with a mix of cedar, currant, cigar box, tar and mineral. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	<b>93</b>	<b>\$38</b>
<b>DRY CREEK The Mariner Dry Creek Valley 2006</b> Sleek and focused, with layers of ripe plum, black cherry, currant, black licorice, mineral and spice. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	<b>92</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>HONIG Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2007</b> Marked by herb, dill, cedar, sage and dried currant flavors, this well-structured red is both supple and tight at points.	<b>92</b>	<b>\$40</b>

## TOP VALUES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>PEDEMONTE Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2007</b> Offers a pleasantly earthy, tobacco-laced mix of dried currant, sage, espresso, plum and black licorice flavors.	<b>92</b>	<b>\$26</b>
<b>PROVENANCE Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2007</b> Aromas of fresh earth and mineral are taut and firm on the palate, with notes of dried currant, sage, cedar and crushed rock.	<b>91</b>	<b>\$42</b>
<b>SODARO Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Felicity 2006</b> Coffee, herb, sage, mineral and cedar notes are joined by ripe currant and berry flavors that are elegant and stylish.	<b>91</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>GALLO FAMILY Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Creek Valley Frei Ranch Vineyard 2007</b> This is marked by a rich, focused mix of dark berry fruits, showing notes of blackberry, wild berry, plum and cedar.	<b>90</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>CAMERON HUGHES Cabernet Sauvignon Red Hills Lake County Lot 168 2006</b> Combines ripe, rich flavors with finesse and grace, offering spicy red currant, black licorice, creamy oak and spice.	<b>89</b>	<b>\$12</b>
<b>B.R. COHN Cabernet Sauvignon North Coast Silver Label 2007</b> Trim, elegant and focused, with spice, dill, cedar, black cherry and plum flavors. Ends with delicate fruit and cedar notes.	<b>88</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>MARTIN RAY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa-Mendocino-Sonoma Counties 2007</b> Appealingly pure, ripe plum, blackberry and black cherry fruit is supple, balanced and persistent, ending with cedary notes.	<b>88</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>ROOTS RUN DEEP Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Educated Guess 2007</b> Intense and firm, with a wild edge to the berry, herb, sage and cedar notes. Elegant, balanced and complex.	<b>88</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>RODNEY STRONG Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley 2007</b> Firm and structured, with aromas of sweet, ripe black cherry, currant and plum. A solid effort that's well-focused.	<b>88</b>	<b>\$22</b>
<b>4 BEARS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Sean Minor 2007</b> Supple, graceful, complex and harmonious, this is firm and taut, with spicy plum, currant, cedar and mineral notes.	<b>87</b>	<b>\$17</b>
<b>BOGLE Cabernet Sauvignon California 2007</b> Tight and intense, with a core of cedary oak, dried currant, herb, mineral and tobacco flavors that are chewy and rustic.	<b>87</b>	<b>\$11</b>
<b>KUNDE ESTATE Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma Valley 2007</b> This austere red exhibits flavors of dried flowers, dried berries, mineral and chicory-laced, cedary oak.	<b>87</b>	<b>\$18</b>
<b>SEBASTIANI Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County 2006</b> A subdued, rich and chewy youngster, offering currant, blackberry, cedar, anise and graphite character.	<b>87</b>	<b>\$18</b>
<b>CONCANNON Cabernet Sauvignon Central Coast Selected Vineyards 2007</b> Cola, raspberry and dried currant aromas firm up on the palate.	<b>85</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>LINE 39 Cabernet Sauvignon Lake County 2007</b> This smooth red offers ripe berry, mineral, graphite and sage notes.	<b>85</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>MCMANIS Cabernet Sauvignon California 2008</b> Appealing grapey wild berry, plum and spice notes are complex.	<b>85</b>	<b>\$11</b>