

roots run deep

WINERY



PRESS COMPOSITE

EDUCATED GUESS NAPA COUNTY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

90 Points | 2023 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Friendly, fruit forward, and full bodied, this wine retains its balance with supple tannins and length. Cocoa-spiced black fruits poured over with mocha, orange zest, and bitter herbs remain palate-filling through the finish of the wine.

90 Points | 2023 vintage | James Suckling

Spiced and cedary on the nose, with dark cherries, plums and hints of cigar box and wet earth. Full-bodied and chewy with a lightly austere, bitter-spice character, yet with juicy fruit underneath. Tight finish. Drink in 2027.

87 Points | 2023 vintage | Jeb Dunnuck

The 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon Educated Guess is a juicy, medium-bodied, and nicely textured effort with ripe black and blue fruits, some vanilla and spice, and good overall balance. It has some firmer tannins and is well-made, delicious, and a good value. Drink this solid Cabernet Sauvignon over the coming 3-5 years.

90 Points | 2022 vintage | James Suckling

A fruit-driven, creamy and mellow cabernet sauvignon with cassis, baked cherries and blossoms. It's medium- to full-bodied with creamy tannins and texture. Deliciously fruity finish.

89 Points | 2022 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Approachable and mouthwatering, this generous wine delivers flavors of black fruits layered with musk and oak spices. Supple tannins are carried by bright acidity into a long finish.

95 Points | 2021 vintage | The Wine Independent

Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2021 Educated Guess Cabernet Sauvignon offers notes of fresh red and black currants with an undercurrent of dried herbs and graphite. The full-bodied palate is chewy and savory-laced, going a little rugged and rustic on the finish.

91 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Darkly fruity and chocolaty, this full-bodied wine is a good value for Napa Valley. Not too tannic, the wine wraps a smooth texture around the ample dark plum, cocoa and cinnamon flavors. Enjoy now through 2028 with roast beef or Korean barbecue.

90 Points | 2021 vintage | James Suckling

Ripe and mellow character of dark berries, plum skins, blue flowers and sweet spices. Full-bodied, deep and succulent with powdery tannins and a fruit-forward, supple finish.

90 Points | 2020 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Black currant and milk-chocolate flavors dominate this richly textured and full-bodied wine. Almost-sweet fruits and oak spices such as vanilla and nutmeg flood the palate, buoyed by fine-grained tannins.

90 Points | 2019 vintage | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

A terrific value in Napa Cabernet, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Educated Guess offers lovely herb-inflected cassis and hints of dark chocolate on the nose. It's medium to full-bodied, dense and concentrated, with a streamlined palate, fine-grained tannins and yet more cassis on the finish.

90 Points | 2019 vintage | James Suckling

Notes of ripe, spiced plums, licorice and cocoa nibs. Some vanilla with a hint of mint, too. Full body. Soft and round with a tannic yet fruity finish.

90 Points | 2018 vintage | James Suckling

A medium-bodied red with aromas and flavors of blackberry, blackcurrant leaf, dried citrus zest, graphite and praline. Firm, chewy tannins. Generous spice and fruit-peel flavors.

91 Points | 2017 vintage | James Suckling

A straightforward cab with currants, plums and hints of hazelnuts that highlight the medium-bodied palate. Round tannins. 86% cabernet sauvignon, 7% petit verdot, 5% merlot and 2% cabernet franc.

EG BY EDUCATED GUESS CALIFORNIA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

91 Points | 2022 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

This offering is smooth, with aromas of Bing cherry, black plum, cedar, espresso, and notes of toasty vanilla on the nose. The mouthfeel is ripe, concentrated blackberry, sarsaparilla, cream soda, orange cream, and grippy tannins on the finish.

88 Points | 2022 vintage | James Suckling

Cedar, vanilla and cassis notes appear on the nose of the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Bound + Determined. It's slightly chunky and bold on the palate, medium to full-bodied, with big fruit, supple tannins and a ripe, velvety finish, making it a solid value among Napa Cabernets.

89 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

This is a full-bodied red, complete with chewy tannins that are well-met by the dark fruits and savory oak tones. Find notes of black currant, black cherry, toasted wood, fennel, tarragon, star anise and a hint of leather.

89 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine & Spirits

86 Points | 2020 vintage | James Suckling

Aromas of red cherry, redcurrant, crushed plum and hibiscus tea. Full-bodied with soft tannins. Runaway acidity derails the sweet red fruit and berries on the palate.

EG BY EDUCATED GUESS NORTH COAST CABERNET SAUVIGNON

90 Points | 2023 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

This lush wine offers rich aromatics of red berries, red currants, and toasty vanilla on the nose. Flavors on the palate evoke dark plum, youthful blackberry, nutmeg, and espresso, all wrapped in gritty tannins.

89 Points | 2023 vintage | James Suckling

This shows black currants, pine needles and spices on the nose. Medium- to full-bodied with a juicy mid-palate framed by moderate firmness and fine tannins. Simple but balanced and easy.

92 Points | 2022 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

This selection is a good example of North Coast Cabernet Sauvignon. The fruit is robust, with aromas of dark cherry, black currant, dried savory herbs, and notes of toasty oak on the nose. The mouthfeel is opulent with dense flavors of blackberry, cola, allspice, citrus zest, mineral, and spiced tannins throughout the finish. Decant and Enjoy pair with bison burgers.

89 Points | 2022 vintage | James Suckling

Raspberries, dried spices and marmalade on the nose of this fruity red. It's full-bodied and lightly jammy with medium-chewy tannins.

92 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

This wine is opulent, with aromas of blackberry, blueberry confiture, toasty vanilla, dried potpourri and allspice. On the palate, flavors of brambled dark plum, peach and pink grapefruit zest slide into vanilla spice, sarsaparilla and silky tannins on the finish. Decant for 30 minutes and enjoy with a teriyaki-glazed pork chop.

88 Points | 2021 vintage | James Suckling

Raspberries, currants, blood oranges and sweet spices on the nose. It's medium- to full-bodied with juicy fruit, but chewy in texture with grainy, gritty tannins.

89 Points | 2020 vintage | James Suckling

Rich and deep nose with sweet spices, dark chocolate, dried meat and jammy blackberries. Chewy and vertical on the palate with a full body and some jagged tannins in the finish. Try in 2025 to see if the dry tannins have started to round out.

87 Points | 2019 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Wood smoke and grilled beef aromas lead to cranberry and dark-cherry flavors plus plenty of oak spices in this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine.

Best of Class | 2017 vintage | San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

90 Points | 2016 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

This wine shows good concentration in color, flavor and texture. It is deep and dark, with ripe, jammy tones of blackberry and black cherry. Significant baking-spice elements add complexity, while fine-grained tannins add texture.

EG BY EDUCATED GUESS NAPA VALLEY RED WINE BLEND

91 Points | 2023 vintage | James Suckling

Spiced cedar, grilled herbs, ripe dark berries and a hint of chocolate on the nose. Full-bodied with lightly chewy but ripe tannins and succulent berries underneath, finishing rich and warm.

89 Points | 2023 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Dark berries, and cassis combine with saffron and distinctive spices to deliver a red blend with oomph, and pleasure, approachability and substance.

91 Points | 2022 vintage | James Suckling

Last Updated 2/12/26

Fragrant floral and menthol aromas lead to a rich palate soaked with blueberries, blackberries, spearmint and milk chocolate flavors on a melted, easy texture of light tannins and soft acidity. The wine is full-bodied and very ripe, and tastes a bit sweet.

88 Points | 2022 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Boldly flavored and full bodied, this approachable red blend fills the mouth with crushed blackberry and black plum accented by hibiscus and musky perfume. Tannins are approachable while plentiful, carrying persistently into a long finish.

92 Points | 2021 vintage | James Suckling

Toasty and spicy on the nose with dark berries, burnt orange peel and hints of sandalwood. Medium- to full-bodied, racy and succulent with fine, chalky tannins. Firm but juicy with a flavorful fruit-driven finish.

89 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

A superdark color and intense blackberry jam aromas are followed by fresh-crushed blackberry and raspberry flavors, moderate tannins and a potent, jammy expression in this porch-pounder of a wine.

89 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine & Spirits

Based on plump, red-fruited merlot (85 percent), this blend includes petite sirah and cabernet sauvignon. The core of fruit is touched by notes of sweet peppers, prunes and chocolate with tangy orange zest. Intriguing, if a little astringent in the end. For prime rib.

EDUCATED GUESS NAPA COUNTY MERLOT

90 Points | 2023 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Dark berries, and cassis combine with saffron and distinctive spices to deliver a red blend with oomph, and pleasure, approachability and substance.

89 Points | 2023 vintage | James Suckling

A dense and creamy chardonnay with caramel, poached pears and sweet spices on the nose. Medium-bodied with a linear character and a subtle finish.

90 Points | 2022 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Bold flavor and grippy tannins deliver a substantial Merlot showcasing dark-fruit flavors spun through with accents of graphite, grapefruit zest and semisweet chocolate. The tannins are persistent and well balanced by a juicy finish.

87 Points | 2022 vintage | James Suckling

A fruity and mellow red with ripe cherries, plums, blue flowers and spiced cedar. Full-bodied and rich, with marmalade notes and supple tannins. Soft and melty in the mouth with a fruity finish.

93 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Luscious, deep and full, this wine packs plenty of red and black fruits in moderate tannins, lacing them with orange zest, graphite and espresso for complexity and interest. Supple enough to drink young. Best from 2026.

92 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine & Spirits

Fleshy cherry flavor gives this a plump richness, the red fruit generous and open-ended in the finish. A bit primary, this would benefit from a year or two of bottle age. A cream-puff of a merlot, for filet mignon.

88 Points | 2016 vintage | Vinous by Antonio Galloni

Last Updated 2/12/26

2016 Merlot Educated Guess Napa County Merlot is a bold, luscious wine loaded with inky, jammy fruit, crème de cassis, chocolate and sweet spice... the 2016 offers plenty of juiciness and intensity.

Best of Class | 2015 vintage | San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

EDUCATED GUESS SONOMA COAST PINOT NOIR

90 Points | 2023 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

This dark and spicy Pinot displays dramatic black cherry and cola aromas on the nose, while the palate brings rich raspberry, earthy shiitake and cinnamon flavors front and center. Plush tannin and echoes of cigar box and licorice emerge across the training finish.

89 Points | 2023 vintage | Wine Spectator

A decidedly floral white, showing honeysuckle and orange blossom notes that give way to apricot, peach and lemon curd flavors, plus accents of toast and shortbread, along with touches of spices on the fresh finish.

89 Points | 2023 vintage | James Suckling

This juicy red has aromas of cherries, cloves and some vanilla. It's full-bodied, soft and easygoing.

Best of Class | 2022 vintage | San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

90 Points | 2022 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Is there freshly crushed cherry on the nose? Sure. But aromas of lilac, sweet cinnamon and cedar are also swirling everywhere. The palate is wildly floral, with tangy citrus, cherry liqueur and white pepper flavors popping. Zesty stuff.

88 Points | 2022 vintage | James Suckling

Strawberries, mushrooms, cola and red cherries on the nose. It's soft and plump, with a medium body and berry-soaked tannins.

93 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Nicely structured for a tangy, grippy texture, this appetizing and concentrated wine boasts ripe strawberries, red plums and black cherries on moderate tannins. Tangy acidity and the fresh-tasting fruitiness set it up for infinite, good food pairings.

88 Points | 2019 vintage | Wine Spectator

A firm blend of savory spice and dried berry flavors show hints of sun-dried tomato, with leafy and stemmy accents on the finish.

Double Gold Medal | 2018 vintage | San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

88 Points | 2017 vintage | Wine Spectator

Spicy and juicy, with roasted notes to the dried plum and berry flavors. Forest floor accents show on the finish.

EDUCATED GUESS SONOMA COAST CHARDONNAY

Last Updated 2/12/26

89 Points | 2023 vintage | Wine Spectator

A decidedly floral white, showing honeysuckle and orange blossom notes that give way to apricot, peach and lemon curd flavors, plus accents of toast and shortbread, along with touches of spices on the fresh finish.

88 Points | 2023 vintage | James Suckling

Preserved lemons, grapefruit pith and lime curd on the nose. The palate is full-bodied with notes of creme brulee, baked apple pie and oak. Balanced and fresh with generous oak.

92 Points | 2022 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Pale gold in the glass, this honeysuckle, Anjou pear and banana-scented Chardonnay possesses a lively nose. The palate has a bit more structure, with flavors of ripe apple, white flowers and baking spice emerging before a smooth and citrus-zest-tinged finish.

89 Points | 2022 vintage | James Suckling

A creamy chardonnay showing aromas of hazelnuts, chopped apples and brioche. Full-bodied and nutty, with good acidity and a simple finish.

92 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

A hefty, rich texture and a tempting blend of baking spices and baked apples make this full-bodied wine easy to appreciate. Ripe golden apples and poached pears meet toasted almonds and vanilla on the palate and continue into a lingering finish.

89 Points | 2019 vintage | Wine Spectator

Juicy, with hints of mesquite to the baked apple and dried pear flavors that turn ripe midpalate, followed by cooking spice accents on the nicely oaky finish.

Gold Medal | 2018 vintage | San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

Gold Medal | 2017 vintage | San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

88 Points | 2016 vintage | Wine Spectator

Plush, with plenty of fresh spicy notes to the fresh-cut Gala apple and Bosc pear flavors. Creamy finish.

EDUCATED GUESS NAPA VALLEY ESTATE RESERVE CHARDONNAY

94 Points | 2023 vintage | Tasting Panel

A slick mouthfeel embraces notes of cinnamon toast, lemon oil, and crème brûlée. Balanced, this opulent Chardonnay is wrapped in white flowers that undress to reveal a seductive orange cream finish.

92 Points | 2023 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

A sophisticated balance of opulent spices and rich flavors lifted by refreshing acidity and ripe stone and tropical fruits. A wine to satisfy the urge for lavish flavor while retaining palate cleansing length.

90 Points | 2023 vintage | James Suckling

The Carneros-sourced 2023 Educated Guess Chardonnay Reserve Estate Grown spent 10 months in French oak, resulting in scents of lemon bars alongside vaguely floral and pineapple notes. It's medium-bodied, plump and fleshy in feel but with a hint of furniture polish on the finish.

88 Points | 2023 vintage | Wine Spectator

A decidedly floral white, showing honeysuckle and orange blossom notes that give way to apricot, peach and lemon curd flavors, plus accents of toast and shortbread, along with touches of spices on the fresh finish.

87 Points | 2023 vintage | Jeb Dunnuck

Aged 10 months in French oak, the 2023 Chardonnay Reserve Educated Guess sports a medium gold hue and offers perfumed tropical fruits, honeyed melon, lanolin, and vanilla nuances. It's medium-bodied, with a round, layered mouthfeel, good richness, and solid length on the finish. Drink this well-made Chardonnay over the coming 2-4 years.

EDUCATED GUESS OAKVILLE RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON**90 Points | 2023 vintage | Jeb Dunnuck**

Aged 15 months in French oak, the 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon Educated Guess Reserve offers plums, ripe black fruits, chocolate, and spice. It's medium to full-bodied, nicely textured, and balanced, with ripe tannins. Drink this satisfying Cabernet over the coming 7-8 years.

95 Points | 2022 vintage | Tasting Panel

Mulberry and chocolate are amped with red pepper and cardamom. The mouthfeel is silky, with a surge of sweet tobacco and soy sauce. Finishes with blue fruit and spiced cedar. Big-boned, with wonderful dimension and style.

93 Points | 2022 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Full-bodied with a core of concentration, this Cabernet Sauvignon offers juicy dark fruits mixed with the structure to pair dynamically alongside a meal.

92 Points | 2022 vintage | James Suckling

Mocha, vanilla and raspberry jam on the nose of this ripe red. It's full-bodied, smoky and a little jammy.

92 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Ripe black plum and black cherry with a refreshing zest of pink grapefruit and spiced cocoa fill the mouth with delicious flavor. This juicy and pleasing wine balances fine-boned tannins with plenty of acidity, keeping the palate fresh and ready for the next sip.

91 Points | 2021 vintage | James Suckling

This is showing aromas of mint chocolate, mulberries, blueberries and roasted nuts. Chewy and firm on the palate with a full body and rich dark fruit supported by broad tannins.

90 Points | 2021 vintage | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

Once again representing a decent value among Napa Cabernets, the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Educated Guess Reserve is a ripe, supple effort, loaded with notes of cassis and black cherries, plus hints of dark loam and licorice. Full-bodied and almost creamy in texture, it finishes with just a touch of warmth (it's 15% alcohol on the label), so drink it on the young side.

93 Points | 2020 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Delicious black currant and blueberry flavors form a focused core of fruit in this well-balanced, moderately tannic wine. It has a good grippy texture, good concentration and the structure to age. Best from 2025–2035.

90 Points | 2020 vintage | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

One surprise to emerge from my tastings last fall with the Napa Valley Vintners was the performance of the 2020 Educated Guess Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve. Boasting aromas of dark loam, cassis, black cherries and vanilla, it's full-bodied and velvety in the mouth. It seems sound, even if it's not the richest or longest wine, and the tariff is fair in the context of soaring Napa retail prices.

91 Points | 2019 vintage | Wine Spectator

Frankly ripe, with a plush array of cassis, plum sauce and melted red licorice notes. Forward in profile and very fan-friendly, featuring a caressing finish where singed vanilla weaves around the fruit.

91 Points | 2019 vintage | James Suckling

Intense aromas of ripe cassis, blackberries, currant bush and cocoa nibs. Full-bodied and chewy with savory fruit on the palate. Delicious aftertaste of pine nuts and fruit.

HYPOTHESIS SONOMA VALLEY SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 Points | 2024 vintage | James Suckling

Spicy and perfumed with aromas of Anjou pears, magnolia blossoms, white pepper and grapefruit. Medium- to full-bodied. The palate is rich and textural with flavors of baking spices, Meyer lemons and fresh resinous herbs. Long finish.

89 Points | 2024 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

89 Points | 2024 vintage | Wine Spectator

Honeysuckle, orange blossoms and wildflower honey give richness to the juicy notes of marmalade, peach and ripe melon. An orange zest detail lingers.

HYPOTHESIS LADY OF GUADALUPE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

96 Points | 2022 vintage | Tasting Panel

The lively flavors sing with Provençal herbs, sultry rotisserie and charred strawberries. Redolent with cranberry and bay leaf and thyme, this wine offers a memorable expression of Pinot Noir from Santa Barbara. Delicate, balanced and complex, it works well on its own or with a bevy of cuisines.

HYPOTHESIS RUSSIAN RIVER VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

95 Points | 2022 vintage | Tasting Panel

Rose petals and cranberry and morello cherry integrate seamlessly, with traces of mocha and smoke that playfully tease the senses. An elegant soft palate pairs with a spice rack of flavors, including black pepper, rosemary and sage. The wine invites contemplation, cuisine and good company.

HYPOTHESIS ROBERTS ROAD VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

90 Points | 2021 vintage | James Suckling

Aromas of red plums, wild strawberries, and potpourri followed by beetroot, caramel, cedar, and roasted nuts. Medium-bodied, refreshing acidity, and velvety tannins. Spiced and layered finish.

HYPOTHESIS OAKVILLE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Upright tannins and brooding dark fruits transform into spiced dark chocolate, cedar and a musky finish. This wine is built on abundant tannins softened by a velvety mouthfeel that carries into a lingering, satisfying finish.

91 Points | 2021 vintage | James Suckling

Ripe blue and black fruit waft from the glass alongside violets and sweet basil. Some vanilla, too. It's juicy and full-bodied with ripe and creamy tannins. Supple finish.

89 Points | 2021 vintage | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Hypothesis boasts flashy aromas of black cherries and loamy earth, plus wisps of vanilla on the nose. It's full-bodied (labeled at 15% alcohol) but lacks textural richness, instead gliding easily across the palate until it reaches a soft, gently bitter finish.

88 Points | 2021 vintage | The Wine Independent

Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2021 Hypothesis Cabernet Sauvignon features scents of freshly picked blackcurrants, black raspberries, and boysenberries with touches of damp earth and crushed rocks plus a hint of wild sage. The full-bodied palate is taut and muscular, with firm, grainy tannins and seamless freshness, finishing earthy.

93 Points | 2019 vintage | The Wine Independent

The 2019 Roots Run Deep Hypothesis Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon is deep garnet-purple in color. It gallops out with exuberant, ready-to-go notes of black cherry compote, redcurrant jelly, and cassis, followed by hints of mint tea, pencil shavings, and dusty soil. The full-bodied palate has a solid structure of chewy tannins and great tension, finishing long and layered.

92 Points | 2019 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Assertive cedar and toasted oak aromas give way to rich, dark chocolate and blackberry flavors in this well-structured, appropriately tannic wine. Good concentration and balance keep it appetizing despite its full body. Best 2025–2032.

92 Points | 2019 vintage | James Suckling

Aromas of red cherry, red currant, elderberry and black tea. Full-bodied with slightly chewy tannins. Bright acidity and fresh fruit on the palate. Succinct.

92 Points | 2018 vintage | James Suckling

Currants, plums and cherries with violets and bark on the nose, following through to a full body with round, juicy tannins and a long, flavorful finish.

91 Points | 2018 vintage | Jeb Dunnuck

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Hypothesis is a charming, relatively straightforward effort, yet it brings beautiful fruit. Blueberries, cassis, cedary spice, and violet notes give way to a medium to full-bodied, nicely textured, sweetly fruited beauty that's about as easy-drinking as they come. It's undeniably delicious and should be enjoyed over the coming 7-8 years.

90 Points | 2018 vintage | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Hypothesis has a deep garnet-purple color and pronounced notes of baked blackberries, warm plums and blackcurrant cordial plus suggestions of pencil lead, clove oil and camphor.

The full-bodied palate has a sturdy frame of grainy tannins and bold freshness supporting the generous black fruits, finishing with an invigorating lift and impressive purity.

91 Points | 2016 vintage | James Suckling

A bigger style of red with lots of ripe fruit and showy new wood, giving lots of vanilla highlights. Full body. Chewy tannins. 85% cabernet sauvignon, 12% malbec and 3% merlot.

BOUND AND DETERMINED NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 Points | 2023 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Vivid, opulent, and structural, this wine delivers the modern generosity associated with the region, with an upright structure and dusty-earth tannins that give a nod to the classics. Black cherries, ripe berries, tobacco, and a mix of baking spices linger in the mouth.

91 Points | 2023 vintage | James Suckling

Vibrant plums and blackberries on the nose, together with cocoa, walnuts and a hint of iodine. The full-bodied palate is firm and focused, with lightly chewy tannins that need a little more time to integrate. Firm finish.

90 Points | 2023 vintage | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

Mainly Merlot (87%), the 2023 Red Wine Educated Guess also includes 8% Petite Sirah and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. The nose features hints of eucalyptus, cinnamon and ripe cherries, while the medium- to full-bodied palate is supple and smooth. Overall, it lacks concentration and length, although it finishes with some dusty tannins. For a drink-me-now red from Napa Valley, it's a decent value, maybe even viable as a by-the-glass pour.

89 Points | 2023 vintage | Jeb Dunnuck

Rock solid, the 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon Bound And Determined offers spicy red and black fruits, cedar pencil, and chocolate nuances. It's medium-bodied and has a nicely textured, balanced mouthfeel, ripe tannins, and a good finish. It's a clear step up over the Educated Guess release and perfect for drinking over the coming 5-7 years.

96 Points | 2021 vintage | The Wine Independent

The 2021 Bound and Determined Cabernet Sauvignon is deep garnet-purple in color. Notes of baked blackberries, plum preserves, and fruitcake jump from the glass, with underlying wafts of damp earth and tobacco. Full-bodied, chewy, and with just enough fruit, the palate offers compelling freshness, going rugged on the finish.

92 Points | 2021 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Chocolate, ripe plum, wet tobacco and mixed cherries join with supple tannins to coat the mouth with flavor. A persistent finish and good balance deliver a satisfying wine.

90 Points | 2021 vintage | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

Cedar, vanilla and cassis notes appear on the nose of the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Bound + Determined. It's slightly chunky and bold on the palate, medium to full-bodied, with big fruit, supple tannins and a ripe, velvety finish, making it a solid value among Napa Cabernets.

92 Points | 2019 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Excellent concentration and a rather firm structure mean this wine should develop nicely over time. Bold black cherry and blueberry flavors are supported by moderate tannins and a good, appetizing balance on the palate. Best from 2024–2030.

92 Points | 2019 vintage | James Suckling

Aromas of baking spice, baked red fruit and thyme. Full-bodied with velvety tannins. Wet stone mixes with overturned earth and black fruit on the palate. Complex, but approachable. I like the subtle spice.

90 Points | 2019 vintage | The Wine Independent

The 2019 Roots Run Deep Bound and Determined Cabernet Sauvignon has a deep garnet-purple color. Notes of cedar chest, vanilla pod, and dusty soil leap from the glass, over a core of warm cassis, blueberry pie, and spice cake. Full-bodied and spicy in the mouth, it has a firm, chewy texture and a savory finish.

91 Points | 2018 vintage | James Suckling

Aromas of mulberries, wild currants, fresh flowers, pine needles, incense and grilled herbs. It's full-bodied with firm, plush tannins. Balanced, with a fragrant, floral edge and a supple finish.

90 Points | 2017 vintage | James Suckling

A generous, medium-to full-bodied red with aromas and flavors of grilled black plums, burnt orange, black peppercorn, praline and toffee. Firm, chewy tannins. Flavorful.

91 Points | 2016 vintage | James Suckling

A fresh, compact cab with currant and blackberry character and hints of spices. Medium to full body. Firm tannins and a flavorful finish. 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, with merlot, malbec and petit verdot.

THE PH.D. HOWELL MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

88 Points | 2021 vintage | Jeb Dunnuck

All from Howell Mountain fruit, the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon The Ph.D. is a more plummy, ripe, open-knit effort with ripe red and black fruits, brambly herbs, and spice. It's medium to full-bodied, has a sweetly fruited, soft mouthfeel, and a good finish. Drink this solid effort over the coming 7-8 years.

89 Points | 2019 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Almost-sweet strawberry and black-plum flavors give a soft, indulgent expression to this broad-textured, low-acid wine. A full body and relaxed tannins add to its mouth-filling profile.

93 Points | 2018 vintage | James Suckling

A big, rich red with blackberries and blackcurrants, as well as some chocolate and walnut undertones. It's full and flavorful. A little old-school in its richness and density. Give it time to come together. 100% cabernet sauvignon.

95-97 Points | 2016 Barrel Sample | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

90 Points | 2016 vintage | Wine & Spirits Magazine

Mostly cabernet sauvignon from a high-elevation vineyard on Howell Mountain, The PhD contains two percent malbec and three percent merlot from the valley floor, pointing up some bright raspberry-like highlights over the black tannins. It's mouth coating and dense when first opened, needing plenty of air to show itself with more clarity. For the cellar.

THE VALEDICTORIAN HOWELL MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Points | 2019 vintage | The Wine Independent

The 2019 Roots Run Deep Higher Education Valedictorian Cabernet Sauvignon is deep garnet-purple in color. It opens with provocative notes of pepper and spice box, over a core of stewed black plums, blackcurrant jelly, and kirsch, plus wafts of tree bark and crushed rocks. The full-bodied palate is very spicy, with velvety tannins and just enough freshness, finishing with great length and impressive poise.

91 Points | 2019 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

This smooth, chocolaty wine offers good black fruit and oak spice flavors on a velvety texture. Milk chocolate, cocoa and blackberry preserves coat the palate. Best—2028.

93 Points | 2018 vintage | James Suckling

This red is deep and full, yet juicy and fresh at the same time. Lots of blackcurrants, black cherries and plums, some sweet vanilla and pine needles with a hint of wet rock. Full body and a big tannin structure that needs a couple of years to soften. But it remains fresh and toned, succulent and balanced. Long finish. 85% cabernet sauvignon, 10% petit verdot and 5% malbec.

90 Points | 2016 vintage | Wine & Spirits Magazine

Like the 2016 Graduate, this blend includes malbec and merlot. The variety brings a sweetness to the wine, a candied plum note to counter the Howell Mountain rocky bitterness of tannins. This is powerful, sleek and generous—Howell Mountain unconstrained.

THE GRADUATE HOWELL MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 Points | 2019 vintage | The Wine Independent

The 2019 Roots Run Deep Higher Education Graduate Cabernet Sauvignon has a deep garnet-purple color. It slowly grows on the nose to reveal an array of earthy notes - truffles, underbrush, and crushed rocks - over a core of baked black plums, boysenberry preserves, and warm cassis, with a waft of lavender. The full-bodied palate is tightly wound with loads of earthy nuances and a very firm, chewy texture, finishing just a tad hard at this youthful stage.

93 Points | 2018 vintage | Wine & Spirits Magazine

This 2018 immediately captures the scent of a conifer forest, focusing in on madrone, building smoky intensity to surround an abundance of red-cherry flavor. Five days later, the wine is brisk and elegant, long on spice and the coolness of a mountain spring. That freshness suggests it will age with grace.

92 Points | 2018 vintage | James Suckling

This wine has aromas of ripe blackberries and blackcurrants, spiced oak, chocolate and dried rosemary. Full-bodied with developed fruit and a soft structure. Ripe and juicy. Long and rich finish, but it remains fresh. 96% cabernet sauvignon, 3% petit verdot and 1% malbec.

94 Points | 2016 vintage | Wine & Spirits Magazine

In 2017, Macario Montoya joined Mark Albrecht's team at Roots Run Deep as winemaker, responsible for blending four different "Higher Education" cabernets. Each originates at a different block in the vineyard, which ranges in elevation from 1,700 to 2,000 feet; each is fermented with a different strain of yeasts and aged in different cooperage. This one spends its time in Seguin Moreau barrels, and the blend includes five percent each of malbec and merlot from Pritchard Hill; those factors tame the dynamic power of its mountain-grown tannins, yielding a trumpet blare of volcanic-soil intensity. Having tasted all four, this one struck our panelists as the most vibrant, layering red, yellow and orange-toned fruit in sun- set colors, lasting on herbs, smoke and depths of earthy savor. It's a complex wine, with all of its details aligned.

90 Points | 2016 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Spiced plum, cedar and tobacco highlight a generously full-bodied, concentrated wine that's deeply etched in tannin and oak. It was blended with 5% Merlot and 5% Malbec.

THE SCHOLAR HOWELL MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Points | 2019 vintage | The Wine Independent

The 2019 Roots Run Deep Higher Education Scholar Cabernet Sauvignon is deep garnet-purple in color. It needs plenty of shaking and aeration to bring out a gorgeous core of crème de cassis, blueberry preserves, and juicy plums, backed up by touches of cinnamon stick, vanilla cake, clove oil, and black truffles. The full-bodied palate is chock-full of rich, spicy flavors of blackberry preserves, supported by firm, grainy tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing with lingering hints of baking spices.

92 Points | 2016 vintage | James Suckling

Lovely aromas of blackberries, pine needles, wet earth and hints of vanilla. Full body. Round and creamy. 95% cabernet sauvignon with malbec and merlot.

91 Points | 2016 vintage | Wine & Spirits Magazine

The Scholar blends in a small amount of malbec and merlot from lower elevations. It's violet scented, with a savory note of earth and game. The structure feels formal, the volcanic tannins lasting for minutes on the breath. Decant it if you open it now, to serve with grilled lamb.

90 Points | 2016 vintage | Wine Enthusiast

Predominantly varietal with 3% Merlot and 2% Malbec, this small-production red is hearty and foreboding in spiced cinnamon and nutmeg-laced oak. Thick and lengthy in black currant and blackberry, it has supple, generous tannin and a lasting taste of mocha.

THE PH.D. NAPA VALLEY MALBEC

94 Points | 2019 vintage | The Wine Independent

The 2019 Roots Run Deep Higher Education PhD Malbec is deep garnet-purple in color. It is a tad closed to start, revealing notes of cedar and cinnamon toast, over a core of black cherry preserves, baked blackcurrants, and boysenberries, leading to suggestions of peppered salami and tar. The full-bodied palate is tightly wound with a firm, grainy texture and lovely freshness supporting the taut fruit, finishing long and peppery.

95 Points | 2016 vintage | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

Deep purple-black, the 2016 Malbec The Ph.D. (a barrel sample) gives up an expressive nose of black cherry cordial, stewed plums and blackberry pie with hints of fallen leaves, dried Provence herbs, black olives and black loam. Full-bodied with a firm backbone of grainy tannins and background freshness, it possesses a great concentration of earth-laced black fruits and finishes on a lingering black truffle note.

THE PH.D. NAPA VALLEY MERLOT

94 Points | 2016 vintage | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

A barrel sample, the deep purple-black colored 2016 Merlot The Ph.D. reveals notions of baked red and black plums, blueberry compote and warm blackberries with touches of spice box and underbrush. Full-bodied with a velvety frame and just enough freshness, the palate delivers bags of spicy black fruits and a peppery kick on the finish.