

GREAT CALIFORNIA CABERNETS

Top-scoring wines from our annual report, Nov. 15, 2007

| Score | Wine | Price | Score | Wine | Price | Score | Wine | Price | Score | Wine | Price |
|-------|--|------------|-------|--|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|---|-------|
| 97 | Bond Melbury Napa Valley 2004 | \$240 | 94 | Dalla Valle Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$130 | 93 | Realm Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley The Bard 2004 | \$75 | 92 | Hidden Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County 2003 | \$75 |
| 97 | Harlan Estate Napa Valley 2004 | \$350 | 94 | Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2004 | \$235 | 93 | Revana Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena 2004 | \$105 | 92 | Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Stagecoach Vineyard 2004 | \$165 |
| 97 | Schrader Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2004 | \$95 | 94 | Larkmead Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Solari Reserve 2004 | \$75 | 93 | V. Sattui Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Morisoli Vineyard 2004 | \$48 | 92 | Janzen Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley To Kalon Vineyard 2004 | \$100 |
| 97 | Schrader Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley CCS Beckstoffer Vineyards 2004 | \$75 | 94 | Cliff Lede Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District 2003 | \$50 | 93 | Seavey Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$85 | 92 | Jean Edwards Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Stagecoach Vineyard 2004 | \$50 |
| 96 | Bond Pluribus Napa Valley 2004 | \$240 | 94 | Cliff Lede Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Poetry 2004 | \$120 | 93 | Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District One Point Five 2004 | \$65 | 92 | John Anthony Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$55 |
| 96 | Bryant Family Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$NA | 94 | The Maiden Napa Valley 2004 | \$NA | 93 | Sherwin Family Cabernet Sauvignon Spring Mountain District 2004 | \$90 | 92 | Cliff Lede Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District 2004 | \$50 |
| 96 | Carter Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard H&C 2004 | \$65 | 94 | Peter Michael Les Pavots Knights Valley 2004 | \$150 | 93 | St. Clement Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Oroppas 2004 | \$55 | 92 | Luna Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$80 |
| 96 | Colgin Cariad Napa Valley 2004 | \$275 | 94 | Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Backus 2004 | \$225 | 93 | Staglin Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2004 | \$150 | 92 | Luna Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 2004 | \$100 |
| 96 | Macaulay Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Beckstoffer To Kalon 2004 | \$100 | 94 | Joseph Phelps Insignia Napa Valley 2004 | \$225 | 93 | Switchback Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Peterson Family Vineyard 2004 | \$75 | 92 | Melka Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley CJ 2004 | \$45 |
| 96 | Merus Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$160 | 94 | Piña Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain Buckeye Vineyard 2004 | \$72 | 93 | Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Yountville Mast Vineyard 2004 | \$75 | 92 | Montallegro Cabernet Sauvignon Santa Cruz Mountains 2004 | \$60 |
| 96 | Scarecrow Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2004 | \$125 | 94 | Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2004 | \$500 | 93 | Versant Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$85 | 92 | PlumpJack Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville McWilliams Oakville Vineyard 2004 | \$72 |
| 96 | Schrader Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley RBS Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2004 | \$95 | 94 | Sloan Rutherford 2003 | \$245 | 92 | Balcom Family Years Napa Valley Red 2003 | \$60 | 92 | Reverie Cabernet Sauvignon Diamond Mountain District Special Reserve 2004 | \$85 |
| 96 | Sloan Rutherford 2004 | \$NA | 94 | Vine Cliff Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Private Stock Pickett Road Vineyard 2004 | \$150 | 92 | Bennett Lane Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$55 | 92 | Rudd Oakville Estate 2003 | \$125 |
| 96 | D.R. Stephens Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Moose Valley Vineyard 2004 | \$100 | 93 | Beringer Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Private Reserve 2004 | \$116 | 92 | Bounty Hunter Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Blind Justice To Kalon Beckstoffer Vineyard 2004 | \$100 | 92 | Showket Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2004 | \$85 |
| 95 | Araujo Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Eisele Vineyard 2004 | \$235 | 93 | Bond St. Eden Napa Valley 2004 | \$240 | 92 | Buccella Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2003 | \$80 | 92 | Steltzner Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Reserve Barrel Select 2004 | \$75 |
| 95 | Bounty Hunter Frontier Justice Beckstoffer Vineyard Napa Valley 2004 | \$100 | 93 | Chappellet Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Signature 2004 | \$46 | 92 | Carter Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Revilo Vineyard 2004 | \$95 | 92 | Von Strasser Cabernet Sauvignon Diamond Mountain District Estate Vineyards 2004 | \$70 |
| 95 | Buccella Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$90 | 93 | Chiarello Family Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Eileen 2004 | \$60 | 92 | Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$70 | 92 | Von Strasser Cabernet Sauvignon Diamond Mountain District Rainin Vineyard 2004 | \$70 |
| 95 | Colgin Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Tychson Hill Vineyard 2004 | \$275 | 93 | Colgin IX Estate Napa Valley 2004 | \$250 | 92 | Crocker & Starr Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Stone Place 2004 | \$90 | 92 | Turnbull Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$45 |
| 95 | Gemstone Yountville 2004 | \$125 | 93 | Delectus Cuvee Julia Napa Valley 2004 | \$125 | 92 | DRII Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$50 | 92 | Villa Hermosa Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain 2004 | \$75 |
| 95 | Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard 2004 | \$150 | 93 | Frias Cabernet Sauvignon Spring Mountain District Private Reserve 2004 | \$65 | 92 | Etude Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$90 | 92 | Waypoint Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard 2003 | \$80 |
| 95 | Lewis Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Hillstone Vineyard 2004 | \$80 | 93 | Hewitt Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2004 | \$75 | 92 | Fisher Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Coach Insignia 2003 | \$70 | 92 | Whitehall Lane Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Silver Anniversary Reserve 2004 | \$75 |
| 95 | Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 2004 | \$125 | 93 | Hollywood & Vine Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2480 2004 | \$78 | 92 | Gargiulo Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Money Road Ranch 2004 | \$65 | 92 | Wolf Family Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$75 |
| 95 | Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District 2004 | \$85 | 93 | Hundred Acre Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Kayli Morgan Vineyard 2004 | \$250 | 92 | Ghost Block Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2004 | \$55 | | | |
| 95 | Schrader Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard MM IV 2004 | \$250/1.5L | 93 | Kapcsándy Family State Lane Vineyard Napa Valley 2004 | \$90 | 92 | Hidden Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County 2004 | \$75 | | | |
| 95 | Spottswoode Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Family Estate Grown 2004 | \$110 | 93 | Kobalt Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$90 | | | | | | |
| 94 | Bounty Hunter Poetic Justice Beckstoffer Vineyard Napa Valley 2004 | \$100 | 93 | Lewis Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 | \$80 | | | | | | |
| 94 | Caldwell Napa Valley 2004 | \$100 | 93 | Lewis Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 2004 | \$125 | | | | | | |
| 94 | Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Special Selection 2004 | \$136 | 93 | Melka Mëtisse Napa Valley 2004 | \$90 | | | | | | |
| | | | 93 | Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2004 | \$45 | | | | | | |
| | | | 93 | Pahlmeyer Napa Valley 2004 | \$125 | | | | | | |
| | | | 93 | Portfolio Limited Edition Napa Valley 2004 | \$125 | | | | | | |

ABOUT THE 100-POINT SCALE
 Ratings reflect how highly our tasters regard each wine relative to other wines. The rating summarizes a wine's overall quality; to determine if the wine's style and character appeal to you, check its complete tasting note in the Buying Guide or at www.winespectator.com.

- 95-100** Classic: a great wine
- 90-94** Outstanding: a wine of superior character and style
- 85-89** Very good: a wine with special qualities
- 80-84** Good: a solid, well-made wine
- 75-79** Mediocre: a drinkable wine that may have minor flaws
- 50-74** Not recommended

James Laube's Recommended California Cabernets

For complete reviews, see the Buying Guide of this or previous issues or the Wine Ratings search at www.winespectator.com.

An alphabetical listing of all wines tasted for this report begins on page 71.

| WINE | SCORE | PRICE | WINE | SCORE | PRICE |
|---|-------|-------|---|-------|---------------|
| BOND Melbury Napa Valley 2004 Fresh black cherry, currant and plum aromas are pure and riveting. Firm, rich and polished, with hints of nutmeg, rose petal and wild berry. Intense, focused and concentrated. | 97 | \$240 | ARAUJO Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Eisele Vineyard 2004 Firm, tight and well-structured, with a medley of floral, spice and dried currant. Well-integrated, focused and concentrated. | 95 | \$235 |
| HARLAN ESTATE Napa Valley 2004 Firmly structured and tightly wound, with deep, perfumed currant, anise, sage and cedary oak notes, picking up a mineral and pebble edge. Long and persistent. | 97 | \$350 | BOUNTY HUNTER Frontier Justice Beckstoffer Vineyard Napa Valley 2004 Shows a rich, elegant mix of currant, black cherry and blackberry fruit that's supple, polished and long. A sheer delight. | 95 | \$100 |
| SCHRADER Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2004 Dark, dense and powerful without being heavy or ponderous. Tiers of mocha-laced currant, cassis, blackberry, spice and herb shadings give this great depth and personality. | 97 | \$95 | BUCCELLA Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 Smooth, plush and concentrated. A multidimensional expression of Cabernet, with layers of currant, blackberry, plum and spice. Supple-textured, this keeps a focus on the fruit. | 95 | \$90 |
| SCHRADER Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley CCS Beckstoffer Vineyards 2004 Reveals its depth and complexity in spades, with an initial push of ripe currant, black cherry, blackberry and mocha-laced oak. Intense and concentrated, yet sleek and vibrant. | 97 | \$75 | COLGIN Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Tychson Hill Vineyard 2004 Massive, yet smooth and polished, with ripe plum, floral and black cherry fruit that slowly builds intensity and depth. | 95 | \$275 |
| BOND Pluribus Napa Valley 2004 A rich, opulent, fleshy style. Brims with ripe black cherry, wild berry and currant flavors that are supple and well-focused. | 96 | \$240 | GEMSTONE Yountville 2004 Tightly wound, with excellent structure. Dense and concentrated, showing a mix of currant, anise, mineral, pencil lead and cedary oak, all sharply focused and well-proportioned. | 95 | \$125 |
| BRYANT FAMILY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 A Cabernet tour de force. Rich, opulent, powerful and well-structured. Packed with ripe, intense currant, spice, blackberry, earth and loam flavors. | 96 | \$NA | PAUL HOBBS Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard 2004 Ripe currant, black cherry and plum aromas are rich and riveting on the palate, coating the mouth with tiers of flavor. Sleek and polished, with hints of anise and mocha. | 95 | \$150 |
| CARTER Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard H&C 2004 Big, rich and expressive, with a range of complex flavors built around ripe currant, black cherry and dark red fruits. | 96 | \$65 | LEWIS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Hillstone Vineyard 2004 A rich, massive yet elegant style. Ripe currant, blackberry and black cherry fruit is pure, focused and persistent. | 95 | \$80 |
| COLGIN Cariad Napa Valley 2004 A rich, flavorful style, with tiers of plum, black cherry and blackberry fruit. Despite its size, this is impeccably balanced. | 96 | \$275 | ROBERT MONDAVI Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 2004 Weaves together a complex array of ripe, rich currant, anise, smoky oak and black cherry. Dense, concentrated and persistent, with great depth and focus. | 95 | \$125 |
| MACAULEY Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Beckstoffer To Kalon 2004 A seductive style, with amazing purity of flavor. Shows rich, elegant and supple currant and black cherry fruit. | 96 | \$100 | ROBERT MONDAVI Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District 2004 Beautifully crafted, rich, chewy and concentrated, yet with a wonderful lift to the flavors. Refreshing, vibrant and supple, with layers of anise, currant, sage and mineral. | 95 | \$85 |
| MERUS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004 Rich and concentrated, with currant, blackberry, wild berry and mocha-laced oak. Turns sleek and elegant. | 96 | \$160 | SCHRADER Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard MM IV 2004 Impressive for its delicacy and finesse. Shows intense, concentrated ripe cherry and plum flavors. Deep and persistent. | 95 | \$250 1.5L |
| SCARECROW Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2004 Beautifully crafted, ripe and spicy. Juicy currant and black cherry fruit is supple and well-defined. Plush, smooth and complex, offering depth, range of flavor, texture and length. | 96 | \$125 | SPOTTSWOODE Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Family Estate Grown 2004 Elegant and stylish, with pure, rich, vibrant and focused black cherry and blackberry fruit that's supple and polished. | 95 | \$110 |
| SCHRADER Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley RBS Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2004 Aromas of chocolate-covered cherry join currant, herb, cedar and spice in this sleek, polished youngster. Lush and smooth. | 96 | \$95 | PETER MICHAEL Les Pavots Knights Valley 2004 Shows complex aromas of dried currant, sage, anise and cedary oak. Dense, balanced and concentrated on the palate, with a tight focus on the loamy currant flavors. | 94 | \$150 |
| SLOAN Rutherford 2004 Dark, rich and concentrated, with great structure, depth and complexity, offering tiers of spicy currant, blackberry, sage, herb and pleasant mineral notes. | 96 | \$NA | | | |
| D.R. STEPHENS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Moose Valley Vineyard 2004 Riveting aromas of black currant and wild berry lead to deep, concentrated flavors. Yet for all its size and gusto, this is elegant, deftly balanced and exciting to drink. | 96 | \$100 | | | |