



# THE RISING STARS OF NAPA CABERNET

Our ranking of Napa's Top 50 Cabernets could easily be expanded to include the 20 rising stars listed below, all of which make great wines. The only reason their Cabernets were not included in our Top 50 list is that they were not produced in at least 10 of the 14 vintages we analyzed. But you should definitely put them on your short list of wineries to look for; they are poised to join the elite the next time around—further proof of the dynamics of Napa Cabernet.

**Key:** WINERY: producer • NAME: specific bottling (Reserve, etc.) • APPELLATION: official district of origin • SOURCE: the wine is a blend of grapes from various vineyard sources (B); or the grapes are estate-grown (E); or the grapes come from a designated single vineyard (SV) • AVERAGE SCORE: average of all existing ratings for vintages from 1996 to 2003 • PRICE: suggested retail price for the most recent vintage available • CASE PRODUCTION: approximate number of cases made in most recent vintage

## 1 Sloan

Appellation: **Rutherford** Source: **E** Average Score: **96.0**  
Price: **\$245** Case Production: **420**

Perfectionist vintner Stuart Sloan, vineyard manager David Abreu and winemaker Martha Levy McClellan make this superrich bottling from grapes grown on a 12-acre vineyard.

## 2 Lewis Cuvee L

Appellation: **Napa Valley** Source: **B** Average Score: **94.8**  
Price: **\$175** Case Production: **150**

Lewis wine on steroids; a blend of hillside Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc creates a massive wine with substantial tannins, yet it is balanced and rich.

## 3 Schrader Beckstoffer To-Kalon

Appellation: **Napa Valley** Source: **SV** Average Score: **94.3**  
Price: **\$75** Case Production: **250**

Strength of this vineyard shines through, among other impressive bottlings under the Schrader label.

## 4 Bond St. Eden

Appellation: **Napa Valley** Source: **SV** Average Score: **93.7**  
Price: **\$230** Case Production: **725**

Team Harlan oversees this winery, which focuses on single-vineyard wines. The St. Eden is sourced from a vineyard just north of the Oakville Crossroad.

## 5 Bond Melbury

Appellation: **Napa Valley** Source: **SV** Average Score: **93.6**  
Price: **\$230** Case Production: **700**

From a hillside estate overlooking Lake Hennessey, northeast of Rutherford.

## 14 Bond Vecina

Appellation: **Napa Valley** Source: **SV** Average Score: **92.4**  
Price: **\$230** Case Production: **710**

Yet another of Harlan's single-vineyard wines, this one from a site in the western foothills above Oakville. Shares the house style of superripe grapes and opulent wines. *Vecina* means "neighbor" in Spanish.