

# Wine Spectator

Home > News & Features > Tasting Reports

## Outstanding 1999 California Cabernets for \$50 or Less

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- 1999 California Cabernet Tasting Report
- James Laube's Top-Scoring California Cabernets
- James Laube's Best-Value California Cabernets

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Wine	Score	Price
<p><b>S. ANDERSON Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District SAV 1999</b>                      Dense, rich and gamy, with earthy currant, blackberry, wild berry plus minty sage and herbal notes. Sharply focused, long, firming on the finish with chewy tannins.</p>	94	\$48
<p><b>DUCKHORN Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999</b>                      Dusty berry, currant, anise and cedary oak aromas persist on the concentrated palate; yet for all its weight, it's supple and graceful, with a rich, curranty aftertaste.</p>	94	\$50
<p><b>DIAMOND TERRACE Cabernet Sauvignon Diamond Mountain 1999</b>                      Bold, rich and compelling, with plush currant, mocha, black- berry, tobacco and anise, touches of herb, sage, earth. Long, concentrated aftertaste and ample tannins.</p>	93	\$50
<p><b>LARKMEAD Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999</b>                      Ripe, rich and supple, with persistent black cherry, black currant and roasted herb flavors, nicely integrated toasty oak and round tannins.</p>	93	\$45
<p><b>LOUIS M. MARTINI Sonoma Valley Monte Rosso Family Vineyard Selection 1999</b>                      Rich, tight, with mouthfilling spice, anise-laced currant and blackberry flavors. Well-focused, with a long, complex finish and well-integrated tannins.</p>	93	\$50

**SHAFER Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **93** **\$48**

A masterful presentation of toasty, mocha-scented oak and exotic wood spices, also ripe, rich, complex currant, mocha, coffee, plum, black cherry. Firmly tannic.

**WHITEHALL LANE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **93** **\$40**

Dark, rich and concentrated, with currant, chocolate, mocha, cherry and herbs. Powerful, complex finish, with ripe tannins.

**WOLF FAMILY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **93** **\$50**

Lush, with ripe blackberry, violet, black cherry, chocolate vanilla and mocha. Tiers of fleshy flavors and supple tannins unfold through the lavish finish.

**S. ANDERSON Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District 1999** **92** **\$30**

Intense, with a beefy, peppery edge to plush currant, mineral, earth, blackberry. Flavorful and deep, with a strong currant, mineral aftertaste and rich tannins.

**ARTESA Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **92** **\$30**

Rich and elegant, with focused currant, cassis, blackberry, finishing with well-integrated tannins and a burst of fruit.

**ASTRALE E TERRA Arcturus Napa Valley 1999** **92** **\$39**

Supple and rich, with velvety black cherry, black currant, chocolate, mocha tones. Ripe fruit and generous toasty oak hold through the lingering, focused finish. Ample tannins.

**BLAIR ESTATE Napa Valley 1999** **92** **\$50**

Ripe and concentrated, focused on black cherry, blackberry and currant. Firmly tannic, long and rich on the finish.

**CHIMNEY ROCK Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District 1999** **92** **\$45**

Rich and polished, with ripe currant, black cherry, plum and mocha of good focus. Ripe tannins are plush and complex.

**FOREFATHERS Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley 1999** **92** **\$35**

Ripe, with rich flavors of malt, mineral, blackberry, currant and mocha wrapped in supple tannins. Fleshy, concentrated fruit lingers, with toasty vanilla and cedar notes.

**HANNA Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley 1999** **92** **\$25**

Sleek, rich and polished for all its youthful vitality and intensity. Currant, cherry, mocha, coffee flavors mark a deep, complex midpalate before the tannins flex their muscles.

**JUSTIN Isosceles Paso Robles 1999** **92** **\$48**

Rich and complex, smooth and seamless. Ripe currant, black cherry and blackberry, with shades of anise, herb and earth. Finishes long, with just-right acidity and tannins.

**JOSEPH PHELPS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **92** **\$42**

Rich, well-balanced, with complex earthy currant, black cherry, anise, coffee and mocha, all sharply focused. Long finish shows a leathery streak.

**TURNBULL Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 1999** **92** **\$35**

Dark, rich and complex, with a solid core of black cherry, plum, currant, anise and cedary flavors. Beautifully focused, with elegance and finesse.

**BENZIGER Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County Reserve 1999** **91** **\$50**

Dense and concentrated, with a broad swath of ripe, rich blackberry, blueberry and mocha-tinged toasty oak. Good dose of tannin on the finish.

**AUGUST BRIGGS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **91** **\$48**

Ripe, earthy and complex, with creamy mocha-laced oak around intense currant and blackberry. Long, complex aftertaste with cellar-worthy tannins.

**BURGESS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Vintage Selection 1999** **91** **\$36**

Ripe, rich and polished, with complex currant, plum, wild berry, sharply focused, long and detailed on the finish. Integrated tannins are sufficient for cellaring.

**CAKEBREAD Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **91** **\$48**

Rich and vibrant, spicy and complex, with pure currant, black cherry and blackberry enlivened by firm tannins and acidity.

**CHAPPELLET Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Signature 1999** **91** **\$42**

Deftly balanced, with ripe blackberry, black cherry, currant and smooth, toasty vanilla. Well-focused, with extra dimension. Finishes with supple, well-integrated tannins.

**THOMAS FOGARTY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **91** **\$45**

Spicy and complex, with violet, black currant, blackberry and roasted herb flavors and firm, tongue-gripping tannins. Toasty oak, earth and mineral on the long finish.

**GIRARD Napa Valley 1999** **91** **\$40**

Tight, dense and richly flavored, with focused currant, chocolate and blackberry of extra depth and dimension. Firms up on the finish, as the tannins weigh in.

**JUSTIN Cabernet Sauvignon Paso Robles 1999** **91** **\$23**

Dark, rich and plush, with thick, earthy currant, plum, mocha and blackberry flavors. Well-focused, long and complex, with ripe tannins on the finish.

**SALVESTRIN Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena 1999** **91** **\$45**

Full-throttle Cab, with ripe blackberry, black currant, earth and violet nuances. Cedar and vanilla and taut, firm tannins frame the finish.

**SEBASTIANI Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley Appellation Selection 1999** **91** **\$24**

Rich, deep and pure, with black cherry, ripe plum, raspberry and currant, touches of anise and herb, vanilla and cedar behind. Ripe tannins on the complex, elegant finish.

**SILVERADO VINEYARDS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **91** **\$35**

Black cherry, spicy plum and blackberry flavors are well-centered, deep and rich, finishing with firm tannins around a core of mocha-laced oak.

**M. TRINCHERO Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Lewelling Vineyard 1999** **91** **\$38**

Bright and focused, with concentrated espresso, black currant, black cherry, cedar and mocha. Well-balanced, with nicely integrated toasty oak and supple tannins.

**TRUCHARD Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Carneros 1999** **91** **\$38**

Aromatic, with ripe plum, currant, floral, spice, cedar. Turns supple, with touches of herb, bell pepper, sage, mineral. Ripe, well-integrated tannins on the finish.

**VILLA MT. EDEN Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Grand Reserve 1999** **91** **\$20**

Weaves ripe cherry, blackberry and currant flavors of smooth- texture. Fine tannins. Toasty, cedary oak gives backbone to the finish.

**CLOS PEGASE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **90** **\$33**

Smooth, rich and well-proportioned, with complex currant, black cherry and blackberry; picks up a note of cedary oak as flavors persist.

**ARROWOOD Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County 1999** **90** **\$45**

Well-balanced, with rich currant and blackberry; cedar and dill-laced oak on the finish. Turns elegant, with ripe fruit flavors and firm, integrated tannins.

**LIPARITA Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **90** **\$36**

Ripe and brawny, with blackberry, roasted herb, earth, malt and mocha flavors. Mineral and leather notes and some toasty oak character unfold on the structured finish.

**MERRYVALE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 1999** **90** **\$39**

Well-focused, intense and supple, with seamless flavors of spicy, juicy black cherry, plum and wild berry. Long, complex aftertaste.

**NAPANOOK Napa Valley 1999** **90** **\$42**

Sleek, with an herbal edge to complex earthy currant, coffee and sage flavors. Long, persistent finish.

**NEWTON Claret Napa Valley 1999** **90** **\$22**

Supple and elegant, with complex herb, currant and green olive, picking up anise, earth and mineral. Balanced finish.

**ROBERT PECOTA Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Kara's Vineyard 1999** **90** **\$36**

Intense yet elegant, with a pretty core of fruit and touches of game, wild berry, flowers and currant. Supple, subtle finish, with ripe, integrated tannins.

**PINE RIDGE Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 1999** **90** **\$30**

Smooth, with focused currant, toasty oak, black cherry and plum. Excellent structure, depth and concentration. Long, complex, even subtle aftertaste.

**ROCKLEDGE Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Reserve 1999** **90** **\$50**

Firm, with ripe sage, herb, black currant, bittersweet chocolate and toasty oak. Solid tannins on the finish.

**SADDLEBACK Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **90** **\$48**

Tight and chunky, with complex earthy currant, mineral and sage flavors. Firm tannins are rich and earthy.

**SIMI Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley 1999** **90** **\$25**

Silky, with ripe, well-focused blackberry, currant and black cherry flavors. Long finish, with elegant tannins.

**SPELLETICH Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1999** **90** **\$44**

Harmonious and rich, with mocha, currant, black cherry, plum and cedary oak. Complex finish, with integrated tannins.

**SPRING MOUNTAIN Miravalle-La Perla-Chevalier Red Napa Valley 1999** **90** **\$50**

Complex, with herb, currant, black cherry and creamy vanilla- and mocha-oak flavors. Finishes with supple tannins.

**SWANSON Alexis Napa Valley 1999** **90** **\$50**

Smooth, rich and creamy, with chocolate- and vanilla-laced currant, black cherry, anise, leather and coffee of complexity and concentration.

**WHITE ROCK Claret Napa Valley 1999** **90** **\$40**

Concentrated, with cedar- and dill-nuanced oak flavors around a compact core of herb and earthy currant. While tannic, the flavors are deep and persistent on the finish.