

Wine Spectator

Home > News & Features > Retrospective / Vertical

1995 California Cabernet Alphabetical List

James Laube

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- [1995 California Cabernet Retrospective](#)
- [1995 California Cabernet Listed by Score](#)
- [1985 California Cabernet Retrospective](#)
- [1975 California Cabernet Retrospective](#)

See Also:

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

[2002 California Cabernet](#)

[Retrospective: Wines in Top Shape](#)

Monday, June 27, 2011

[2001 California Cabernet](#)

[Retrospective: Stunning at Age 10](#)

Friday, April 22, 2011

[2000 California Cabernet](#)

[Retrospective: A *Garagiste* Scores a Victory](#)

Monday, February 9, 2009

[Retrospective: 1998 California Cabernets](#)

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

[Retrospective: 1987 California Cabernets](#)

[More from Retrospective / Vertical](#)

Wine	Score	Price*
<p>ALTAMURA Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995</p> <p>An earthy, mulchy style, with mature currant, cedar, sage and herbal notes that struggle to find an identity. Ends with dried-out tannins.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now. 2,600 cases made. —<i>J.L.</i></p>	83	\$40/\$38
<p>ARAUJO Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Eisele Vineyard 1995</p> <p>A delightfully rich, vibrant and complex wine that is aging very gracefully. The core flavors are well-focused and offer a mix of mature red currant, plum and floral scents, with a touch of anise and mineral on the finish. Ripe tannins let the flavors glide through the finish, where mocha adds a nice added dimension.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2015. 2,500 cases made. —<i>J.L.</i></p>	94	\$75/\$231
<p>ARROWOOD Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County Réserve Spéciale 1995</p> <p>Vibrant and lively, with rich, ripe, lush, savory currant, blackberry, mineral, anise and cedar notes that are all in proportion, giving this wine a tremendous sense of balance, finesse and harmony. It finishes with a long,</p>	92	\$75/\$78

persistent finish, with lots of detailed flavors and depth.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2014. 1,239 cases made. —*J.L.*

BERINGER Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain Bancroft Ranch 1995 92 \$50/\$49

Impressive for its richness, depth and concentration, as well as its elegance and finesse, with layers of sweet currant, black cherry, anise and sage. The tannins have a rich mineral edge yet they're well-integrated.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2010. 5,000 cases made. —*J.L.*

BERINGER Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley State Lane Vineyard 1995 87 \$85/\$48

High-toned cherry and wild berry aromas lead to an elegant, smoky, currant-laced wine with hints of tar and raspberry. It thins out a bit on the finish and the tannins stand out a bit more than might be preferable.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now. 200 cases made. —*J.L.*

BERINGER Merlot Howell Mountain Bancroft Ranch 1995 92 \$100/\$100

Aromas of earth, clay and currant turn rich and loamy on the palate. This is a dense, concentrated young wine that either needs decanting or a little more cellar time. On the finish it reveals a rich core of cherry and currant, finishing with muscular tannins.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2010. 200 cases made. —*J.L.*

BRYANT FAMILY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 89 \$100/\$508

One of the more pleasant and complex aromas, with currant, cherry and vanilla. It's a bit drier on the palate, with shades of red currant, anise, sage and cedar. Tilts toward dry, mouthcoating tannins on the finish.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through . 625 cases made. —*J.L.*

BURGESS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Vintage Selection 1995 86 \$24/\$24

Mature yet lively, with hints of dried cherry, mineral and earth that combine to give it a nice range of complexity. The tannins are firm and chewy, but overall it has aged well. Best soon.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now. 8,200 cases made. —*J.L.*

CAYMUS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Special Selection 1995 93 \$136/\$140

Sleek and well-structured, with a braid of exotic smoke, currant, green olive and herbal flavors that drape together nicely, holding a tight focus and showing how ripe, supple tannins can integrate without dominating. Finishes with a dash of mocha and spice.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2010. 2,000 cases made. —*J.L.*

CHATEAU ST. JEAN Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County Cinq Cépages 1995 93 \$24/\$56

A bit pungent and earthy in the aroma, but well-structured, with ripe, firm, vibrant black cherry, mineral, red currant and wild berry flavors that are lively and intense, with a tight focus and a long, complex aftertaste. The wine impresses with its purity of flavors and youthfulness. Shows some tannins on the finish, but is best enjoyed now.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2012. 14,800 cases made. —*J.L.*

CHATEAU ST. JEAN Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County Reserve 1995 91 \$70/\$70

Still very tightly wound with bound-up currant, earth, mineral and cedary oak flavors that are youthful and concentrated, making it seem as if it's still not ready. The focus is sharp, the flavors are complex and deep and

the tannins are sturdy without being overbearing.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Best from 2006 through 2014. 450 cases made. —*J.L.*

CLOS DU VAL Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 1995 82 \$65/\$65

Tastes mature, with herb, cedar and olive flavors and a hint of sour black cherry on the finish. Sleek and well-structured, it comes up short on depth and concentration. No point in waiting.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now. 1,850 cases made. —*J.L.*

COLGIN Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Herb Lamb Vineyard 1995 92 \$90/\$383

A scent of currant, herb and mulchy bay leaf and minty notes are rich, ripe and elegant on the palate, offering more fruit complexity and the polished texture that comes at age 10. Harmonious and balanced, it offers an ideal mix of youthful currant, red plum fruit and hints of maturity.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2015. 400 cases made. —*J.L.*

CONSTANT Diamond Mountain Vineyard Napa Valley 1995 87 \$95/\$95

Supple and harmonious, with intense currant, herb, anise and herbal scents. It turns dry and tannic on the finish, so decanting is recommended. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2009. 220 cases made. —*J.L.*

DALLA VALLE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 92 \$50/\$87

Perfumed red currant, cherry, anise and a sort of melted-chocolate aroma. It's firm, tight and concentrated, yet elegant in its own way, with tannins that are in balance and a long, detailed finish that shows off a mineral quality.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2015. 2,200 cases made. —*J.L.*

DIAMOND CREEK Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Gravelly Meadow 1995 87 \$75/\$87

Still tightly wound, with vibrant cherry, berry and vanilla notes, this wine definitely needs aeration. With a few minutes the flavors show more depth and complexity, and it's well-balanced, just austere.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2014. 560 cases made. —*J.L.*

DIAMOND CREEK Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Red Rock Terrace 1995 88 \$75/\$82

Very Bordeaux-like in its delivery and range of flavors, with a medley of fresh earth, currant, anise, sage and mineral. Fine balance; while the tannins are sturdy, they're integrated, making this a good bet for further cellaring.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2014. 900 cases made. —*J.L.*

DIAMOND CREEK Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Volcanic Hill 1995 88 \$75/\$93

Lean and austere, with a mix of mineral, earth, red currant and briary, cedary notes. Firmly tannic, too, though the fruit pushes through on the finish, despite some considerable tannins. Needs decanting.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2014. 1,100 cases made. —*J.L.*

DUCKHORN Merlot Napa Valley Estate Grown 1995 91 \$50/\$50

Wonderful complex aromas of currant, herb, cedar, tar and tobacco. Smooth, with ripe, integrated tannins. This wine has mellowed nicely and is at an ideal drinking age, with a mix of youthful fruit and a touch of maturity.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2009. 338 cases made. —*J.L.*

DUNN Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain 1995 74 \$45/\$71

Dense and leathery, with a streak of green, herbal flavors that turn dry and dirty. It's drinkable, but desperately needs decanting. Even at that, it's tough going.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 2,700 cases made. —J.L.

ETUDE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 96 \$40/\$86

This combines dark, rich, potent Cabernet flavors with a sense of elegant and finesse. The purity of the currant, plum and blackberry is dazzling, refreshing and youthful. The finish pulls everything together, ending with a long, detailed, sophisticated aftertaste.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2012. 1,400 cases made. —J.L.

FREEMARK ABBEY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Cabernet Bosché Bosché Estate 1995 88 \$50/\$50

Quite chewy and tannic, even drying, with glimpses of currant, cedar, mineral and herbs, but the flavors begin to emerge with more complexity on the finish, revealing hints of cherry and plum, so it's best to decant.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2014. 2,958 cases made. —J.L.

GROTH Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 1995 86 \$125/\$113

Drying tannins, with rich bittersweet chocolate, herb and currant flavors that are tightly wound and a bit linear, ending with a dry, cedary, gritty edge. Needs decanting.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2010. 1,350 cases made. —J.L.

HARLAN ESTATE Napa Valley 1995 93 \$110/\$512

Dark-hued, with a rich, plush core of earthy currant, pencil lead, vanilla and herbal sage scents. A big, ripe, expressive wine that packs in lots of flavor yet retains a sense of elegance and finesse. Ready now (and be sure to decant), it has the concentration and intensity to last another decade with ease.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2015. 1,185 cases made. —J.L.

HARTWELL Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Sunshine Vineyard 1995 86 \$50/\$69

Candle wax and earthy aromas combine with ripe, supple currant and wild berry fruit to give this wine a nice range of flavors. The tannins are chewy and the flavors get a lift on the finish, picking up a hint of mineral and pencil lead.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2011. 700 cases made. —J.L.

LEWIS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 1995 90 \$40/\$40

Excellent structure and depth of flavor, built around a core of rich yet elegant currant, mineral, black cherry and cedary oak flavors. The tannins are chewy and show a touch of earthiness and then veer to dryness, but the fruit flavors push through.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2011. 1,800 cases made. —J.L.

LEWIS Merlot Napa Valley Reserve 1995 92 \$45/\$45

Firm, rich and chewy, with a complex, mature range of Merlot flavors, it's built like a sturdy Cabernet. Hints of dried currant, anise, cedar and stewed plum end with a taste of fresh earth, and while the wine is concentrated and tannic, the tannins smooth out on the finish.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2012. 150 cases made. —J.L.

MAYACAMAS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 75 \$NA/\$NA

Stalky green bean aromas and flavors make this a wine for fans of the style. Dry, earthy tannins make it even less interesting to drink.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. —*J.L.*

PETER MICHAEL Les Pavots Knights Valley 1995 87 \$50/\$80

Solid, with dense, concentrated currant, anise, blackberry and pencil lead notes. While tannic, it's well-balanced and the flavors manage to push through on the finish, making this more interesting than most from 1995s. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2009. 2,851 cases made. —*J.L.*

ROBERT MONDAVI Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 1995 89 \$80/\$55

A classy wine—rich, complex and concentrated and relies as much on its subtlety and finesse as it does its engaging array of anise, dried currant and black cherry fruit that shows off nuances of cigar box and cedar. At an excellent drinking stage.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2008. —*J.L.*

NIEBAUM-COPPOLA Rubicon Rutherford 1995 90 \$80/\$53

Aging well, with a complex band of currant, blackberry and cherry fruit that's well-centered and deftly balanced, with just the right amount of tannins and acidity.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2007. 4,565 cases made. —*J.L.*

OPUS ONE Napa Valley 1995 82 \$100/\$178

Earthy, funky aromas and flavors are intense and concentrated, so if you like those dense earth, leather, mineral and tobacco flavors that come across like Old World Bordeaux.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 30,000 cases made. —*J.L.*

PAHLMAYER Napa Valley 1995 88 \$60/\$75

Excellent structure, with a medley of complex currant, mineral and a pleasant claylike earthiness that folds in, giving it a rich, mouthcoating finish. Intense and concentrated, it's ready now and should be decanted one hour before drinking. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec and Petite Verdot.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2010. 2,500 cases made. —*J.L.*

PARADIGM Merlot Oakville 1995 93 \$40/\$40

A delightfully mature and complex Merlot, with vivid, sharply defined black cherry, plum and wild berry fruit that's elegant, deftly balanced and long and complex on the finish. Hints of cedar, anise and cigar box along with a touch of forest floor add a subtle dimension of depth and nuance. The tannins are fine-grained and integrated.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2010. 1,632 cases made. —*J.L.*

JOSEPH PHELPS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 87 \$27/\$35

A solid effort, with rich, chunky currant, earth, cedar and tobacco flavors that are bunched together tightly, with a strong cedary aftertaste that turns up the tannic volume, giving it a dry aftertaste. Best to decant.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2012. 5,000 cases made. —*J.L.*

JOSEPH PHELPS Insignia Napa Valley 1995 94 \$75/\$115

Very Bordeaux-like in its complex cedar, currant and anise aromas. Firm, concentrated and still quite tannic, it is bold and rich, with layers of currant, plum, mineral, cedar and tobacco flavors, many of which are still in their youthful primary stage. While it is certainly approachable (best decanted) it appears to have the concentration and stuffing to go another decade. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petite Verdot.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2015. 10,000 cases made. —*J.L.*

PINE RIDGE Andrus Reserve Napa Valley 1995 88 \$85/\$85

A bit tart, with cherry, cranberry and wild berry fruit, fans of more elegantly styled wines will find this especially enjoyable, for it soothes and refreshes rather than trying to win points with power and intensity. Still, you get the complexity without excessive tannins or dryness. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot and Malbec.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2010. 496 cases made. —J.L.

PRIDE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 90 \$24/\$42

Dark ruby-black in color, with a dense, chewy mix of currant, black cherry, fresh earth, mineral and dusty sage and underbrush flavors. The finish turns dry and there's no mistaking the tannic muscle. Still, it's in very good shape and likely to hold another five to 10 years.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2012. 2,252 cases made. —J.L.

PRIDE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 1995 97 \$70/\$195

Amazingly youthful and complex, with layers of vibrant black cherry, blackberry, currant, spice and cedar. Tightly focused on the fruit, with layers of concentration, the Cabernet flavors just keep unfolding. Just as impressive is the balance, as this is a big, rich, expressive wine with ripe, integrated tannins.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2012. 308 cases made. —J.L.

PRIDE Claret Reserve Napa Valley 1995 92 \$70/\$137

Dark red garnet in color, intense and concentrated, with a rich core of earthy red currant, black cherry, fresh earth and cedary oak and mocha notes. The finish shows a chewy wall of tannins that may be with this wine forever. Still, it's impressive for its concentration and depth of flavor. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petite Verdot.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2010. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 225 cases made. —J.L.

QUINTESSA Rutherford 1995 82 \$90/\$90

Gallops with ease through a barnyard of earth and leather, ending with an austere, acrylic edge and a hint of dried, earthy currant.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2009. 2,000 cases made. —J.L.

MARTIN RAY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Diamond Mountain Vineyard 1995 86 \$45/\$45

Pungently earthy, with a mix of cedar, currant, mushroom and dry, chalky tannins that offer a touch of mineral, sage and dusty wood, making it a bit one-dimensional. Still, there are complex and distinctive flavors and aeration helped, giving the flavors decent length.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2009. 400 cases made. —J.L.

RIDGE Monte Bello Santa Cruz Mountains 1995 87 \$100/\$86

Good richness and depth, with a core of cedar, dill, smoke and dried currant and mineral. A savory style, with a racy edge on the finish, but the dryness and simplicity of fruit is a concern. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petite Verdot and Cabernet Franc.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2009. 3,600 cases made. —J.L.

SCREAMING EAGLE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 87 \$100/\$1,890

Aromas of earthy dried flowers lead to a supple, fleshy core of currant, black cherry and sour cherry candy fruit shaded by a touch of earthiness. The tannins are smooth and it shows a slight trace of oxidation. Two other bottles did not show nearly as well.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now. 225 cases made. —J.L.

SEAVEY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 73 \$40/\$40

Despite some funky barnyard aromas, it's a little more tolerable on the palate, with grainy dried-out currant and earthy, leathery flavors.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. 930 cases made. —*J.L.*

SHAFER Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Hillside Select 1995 87 \$85/\$237

Complex, if on the mature side of the spectrum. This is perfectly enjoyable, marked by rich earth, dried currant, herb and sage flavors along with some chewy tannins.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2008. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 2,000 cases made. —*J.L.*

SILVER OAK Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley 1995 92 \$50/\$82

A touch of dill and coconut from oak give this a unique aromatic and flavor profile and there's plenty of rich, intense, spicy currant, plum and blackberry fruit to stand up to the wood. Hints of anise and cherry flow through on the finish, keeping the fruit in the forefront.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2012. 41,300 cases made. —*J.L.*

SILVER OAK Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 84 \$75/\$93

A bit simple, with a band of cedar, currant and fresh earth, but it lacks the richness, depth and dimension of the best wines.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now. 10,400 cases made. —*J.L.*

SILVERADO VINEYARDS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Limited Reserve 1995 85 \$65/\$64

This wine offers a delicate, detailed presentation of Cabernet, with ripe currant, mineral, anise, pencil lead and cedary nuances. There's a hint of stalky, green bean on the finish, but the acidity keeps the flavors lively.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2010. —*J.L.*

SNOWDEN Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 85 \$45/\$45

Stern tannins are evident from the outset, giving it a dry, chewy texture. The fruit behind it veers toward the tart cherry and currant spectrum of Cabernet, and it's likely the tannins will always play a prominent role in this wine. Still, for those who like chewy Cabernets, here's your cup.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2012. 5,904 cases made. —*J.L.*

SPOTTSWOODE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 1995 92 \$55/\$63

A complex web of mature currant, cedar, mocha and plum are ripe and vibrant, with a hint of wild berry jam peeking through on the finish. Impressive for its balance and integration of tannins, which are supple.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2007. 4,800 cases made. —*J.L.*

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Fay 1995 89 \$70/\$26

Tightly wound, with concentrated currant, plum and wild berry flavors that offer subtle hints of sage and tobacco. Gains momentum on the finish and ends with supple tannins.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2009. 3,139 cases made. —*J.L.*

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley S.L.V. 1995 92 \$70/\$63

Firm, rich and concentrated, with tiers of smoky currant, herb, black cherry and a hint of cedar and cigar box. The flavors are tightly focused and pick up a meaty richness on the finish.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2012. 2,434 cases made. —*J.L.*

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS Cask 23 Napa Valley 1995 92 \$120/\$102

Wonderful richness, with layers of mocha, coffee, dried currant, sage and tobacco, all woven together in a tight, focused fashion. The tannins and acidity are still lively, and may be a factor for years to come. But as the fruit matures, it's best to consider drinking now or soon.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2009. 1,520 cases made. —*J.L.*

STAGLIN Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 1995 86 \$43/\$55

Smooth and graceful, with a supple band of rich currant, mocha and chocolate-covered espresso bean, it holds a tight, rich focus, though turns dry and loamy on the finish.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now. 5,000 cases made. —*J.L.*

STERLING Reserve Napa Valley 1995 83 \$50/\$35

Simple, rather uninteresting flavors of mulchy currant, earth and cedar, and while it's well-balanced, there isn't much to get excited about. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petite Verdot and Malbec.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now. 6,800 cases made. —*J.L.*

TRUCHARD Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Carneros Reserve 1995 92 \$55/\$55

Impressive for its complexity and depth of flavors, with a beam of currant, espresso, anise, sage and mineral. The tannins are firm and sturdy, too, but they're well-integrated and the ripe fruit flavors push through on the finish.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2010. 190 cases made. —*J.L.*

VIADER Napa Valley 1995 86 \$33/\$44

A bit earthy and mulchy, though a little more pleasing on the palate, where the dried currant, prune and grapey Bing cherry edge, turning dry and tannic on the finish. Shows signs of oxidation. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now. 4,400 cases made. —*J.L.*

WHITEHALL LANE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 1995 88 \$40/\$60

A ripe, robust wine, with lots of rich currant, plum and funky cedary oak nuances and the flavors, while rustic, are focused and persistent and the tannins are ripe and in balance.—1995 California Cabernet retrospective. Drink now through 2009. 2,400 cases made. —*J.L.*

**Release Price / Current Price*