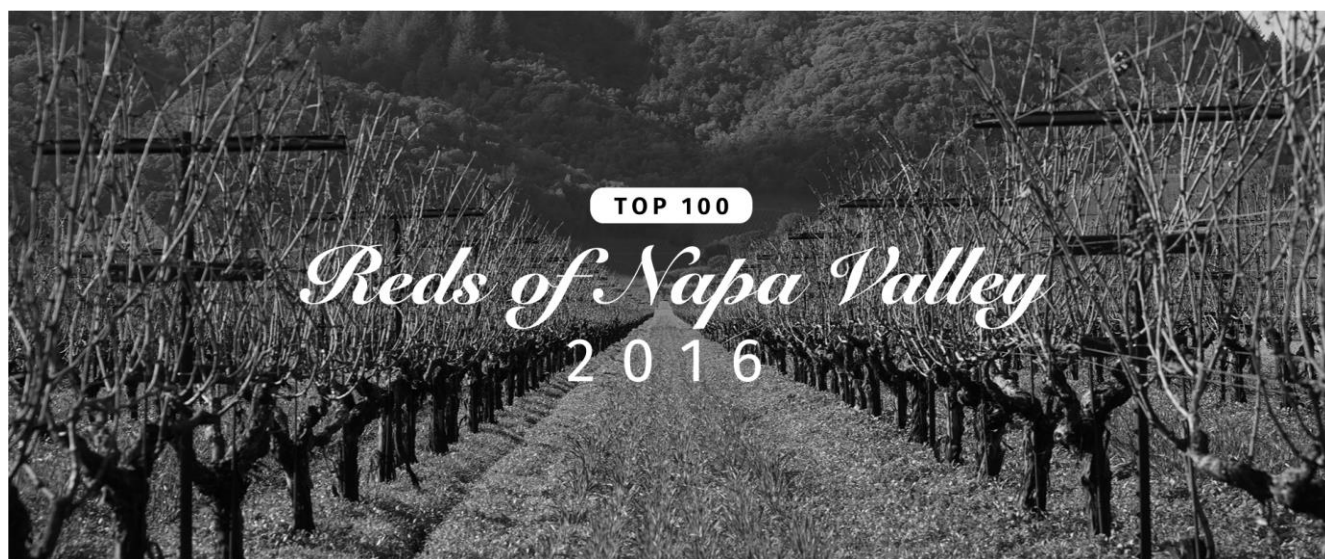


# The Top 100 Reds of Napa Valley 2016

Wednesday, November 23, 2016



I couldn't have picked a better time to create a Top 100 list for Napa than in 2016. What a year it's been for America's most famous wine region, as most wines I scored were from the glorious 2012 and 2013 vintages. I tasted about 1,000 wines from Napa this year over four different trips. JamesSuckling.com is committed to the region and its unique wines and fantastic terroir and microclimates. We believe in the future of Napa wines in both America and abroad, particularly in Asia where I spend five months working each year and have two full-time staff in Hong Kong. That's why I also now live part of the year in St. Helena so that I can keep my hand on the region's pulse.



Gorgeous Napa weather during one of our vineyard visits.

It won't be a surprise that Opus One Napa Valley 2013 is our Napa Valley Red of 2016. It was also my [Wine of the Year in 2016](#). The 100-point Bordeaux blend highlights what is great about the best Napa reds at the moment: It has a classic balance and structure that recalls the valley's past alongside a new style of precise and ripe fruit full of irresistible energy and drinkability. It also shows that the region is ready to move on from overblown, jammy fruit with too much alcohol. That is not the way forward.

The Dominus Napa Valley 2013 is a close second (also a perfect wine). This bottle, too, shows its history and pedigree from one of the founding-father's vineyards. What a wine with such beauty and class.

The No. 3—Realm Cellars Napa Valley Oakville Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2013—and No. 4 —Paul Hobbs Napa Valley Oakville Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2013—both hail from a legendary valley floor vineyard, To Kolan. These wines show the true character of the soil, offering stone and oyster shell undertones to the fresh fruit. This is a departure from the many jammy, fruit bombs I've encountered from here that always masked the terroir.

Continuum Napa Valley Continuum 2013 is at No. 5. This bottle shows the superb quality and intensity of mountain grown grapes. I love Pritchard Hill reds, and this Bordeaux blend shows such complexity and structure yet a balance and freshness. This will age beautifully, but it's also hard to resist opening now.



The No. 10 Dominus Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Napanook 2013 is simply one of the best value, top scoring Napa reds out in 2016.

The list continues with many classics as well as relative newcomers. I tried to pick wines that excited me not so much for their flamboyance but for their beauty, complexity and balance. Drinkability, of course, is paramount and I think great wines are great from the beginning, whether from barrel or from bottle and through the years in the cellar. I mostly kept to picking one wine per winery on this list. The No. 10 Dominus Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Napanook 2013 is the exception. It's simply one of the best value top scoring Napa reds out in 2016.

Next year's tasting should be just as exciting with the release of so many great 2014s from Napa Valley. I've had many from barrel and already they're showing inspiring freshness and a fruitiness that gives them a more linear profile than the structured 2013s or ripe and fruity 2012s. Napa is on a roll with a trio of great vintages and fabulous wines—and we look forward to spending even more time with these great wines. —James Suckling, CEO/Editor

## Tasting Notes

1

### OPUS ONE NAPA VALLEY 2013

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**100**

The greatest Opus ever. Terrific aromas of crushed black currants, blueberries, and flowers with hints of sweet tobacco. Roses continue to exude opulence and class. Full body, superb balance of ultra-fine tannins and vibrant acidity. Complex aftertaste of black fruits and citrus fruit. Extremely persistent. So approachable now and enjoyable. But will be even better in 2019 and beyond. 79% cabernet sauvignon, 7% cabernet franc, 6% merlot, 6% petit verdot, 2% malbec. This will always be beautiful to drink.

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2

**DOMINUS NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**100**

The aromas to this are multidimensional and fascinating with black truffles, bark, cloves, black currants, citrus, and even ginseng. Full-bodied, yet reserved and austere with chewy and powerful tannins that remain polished and refined. The flavors are more umami and savory. Then there are forest fruits and blood-orange undertones. The wine goes on for minutes. A wine to age for a lifetime. It's an experience to taste this. A new classic showing its history and tradition as a source of the greatest wines ever from Napa. A wine to enjoy forever.

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3

**REALM CELLARS NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE BECKSTOFFER TO KALON VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**100**

This is extraordinary on the nose with cold stones, minerals, wet earth and fresh spices. Full body, an incredible backbone of tannins, and great length. It really lasts for minutes. When you taste it, it brings you down to the root and soul of the wine. Extraordinary. This is what To Kalon is supposed to taste like. Pure cabernet sauvignon. 450 cases.

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4

**PAUL HOBBS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE BECKSTOFFER TO KALON VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**100**

This is incredible with blackberries, oyster shell, and iodine. Stones and graphite. Perfect nose. Full-bodied, yet so balanced and dense with terrific subtle fruit and a salty, savory finish. Like sea salt with raw wagyu meat. Perfect. Better in 2020, but amazing now.

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5

**CONTINUUM NAPA VALLEY CONTINUUM 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**99**

Impressive purity of fruit and definition with blackcurrant, oyster shell, blueberries and slate. Graphite, too. Very complex yet subtle. Full-bodied, very chewy and powerful yet polished and gorgeous. Muscular, well-formed tannins. Electric

style. Drink in 2020.

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6

**PETER MICHAEL WINERY NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE AU PARADIS 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

99

The complex aromas are amazing with hot stones, blackcurrants, meat, and iron. Turns to porcini and wet earth. Cassis leaf, too. Full-bodied, velvety, and savory with blueberries, iron, iodine and oyster shell. Classic texture. So fabulous to taste now but will age beautifully for decades to come.

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7

**SPOTTSWOODE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY ST. HELENA 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

98

Glorious blueberries, blackberries, violets, and hot stones. Cloves and other spices. Even sliced mushrooms. Full body, very firm tannins, and a persistent and savory finish. A tight and polished young cabernet.

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8

**QUINTESSA NAPA VALLEY RUTHERFORD 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

98

This is really fantastic on the nose with blackberries, blueberries, lavender, and violets. Even sage. Full body plus extremely integrated tannins that are polished and refined. The balance and harmony are phenomenal. Goes on for minutes. Beautiful now but will satisfy for decades.

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9

**DIAMOND CREEK CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY GRAVELLY MEADOW 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

98

The aromas of blueberries and blackberries in this wine are phenomenal. It's so perfumed and floral with violets, lilacs, and roses. Full body with firm, super silky tannins. And yet it's cool and racy. Minerally with stones, as it should be. Classic Diamond Creek style. Better in 2020 but a joy to taste. 430 cases made.

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10

**DOMINUS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY NAPANOOK 2013**

**Country** United States

Score

Fabulous nose of mushrooms, like porcini, with

**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

97

black truffle that turns to citrus fruits such as orange and tangerine. Some vine bark. Full-bodied yet wonderfully firm and formed with refined and polished tannins. Super definition. Drink in 2018, but wonderful to experience.

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11

**ABREU CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY CAPPELLA 2012**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2012

Score  
100

A beautiful and fresh red with flowers and blue fruits along with raspberries and blackberries. Full body, ultra-fine tannins, and wonderful length. Finesse. Fine-grained. Harmony and balance. Sexy and very, very beautiful. Magic and seamless. About 200 cases made. Drink now.

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12

**SCHRADER CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY BECKSTOFFER TO KALON VINEYARD SCHRADER 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
100

This is a red with amazing structure and muscle, yet it remains fresh and agile. Full body and chewy and polished tannins. Salty with chili and sweet tobacco. So savory. Marvelous, seamless texture. In synch. Why wait? Beautiful to drink now.

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13

**DANA ESTATES CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY RUTHERFORD HELMS VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
100

Unique aromas of citrus fruit such as tangerines and oranges which combine with plums, black cherries, and blackcurrants. Lemon rind, too. Full-bodied with ultra-fine tannins that give the wine a precise and focused finish that lasts for minutes. Laser-guided. A savory and subtle, minerally finish. This redefines the greatness of Napa Valley wine and California. 282 cases made.

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14

**HARLAN ESTATE NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
100

This is really sensational with such precision and focus. Glorious aromas of tar, graphite, blackcurrants, and blackberries. Full-bodied, very tight, and reserved. Phenomenal tannic structure

that is supple and wonderful. This new classicism makes me speechless. It's pure pleasure. You can drink it now, but it's built for aging.

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15

**KENZO ESTATE NAPA VALLEY AI 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California

**Vintage** 2013

Score

97

Aromas of tobacco leaf and currant. Hints of black currants. Iodine. Full body, pinpointed fruit and tannins that melt into the wine. Dense yet agile. Goes on for minutes. Superb classic structure showing finesse and style. Classicism here. Better in 2022 but hard not to drink now.

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16

**KAPCSANDY FAMILY WINERY NAPA VALLEY STATE LANE VINEYARD ROBERTA'S RESERVE 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

100

The aromas to this are mind-blowing. Pure violets, lilacs, blueberries, blackberries, licorice, and flowers. Full body and superb tannin tension with polish and balance. Harmony. The layers and texture to this are phenomenal. The greatest American merlot ever made. Ranks among the best in the world. Only about 300 cases made.

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17

**SCREAMING EAGLE NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

100

Breathtaking aromas of blueberries, wet earth, black truffle, vine bark, and lavender undertones. Full-bodied, yet tight and compressed with fabulous savory and dark-fruit flavors. It lasts for minutes on the finish. The classicism in this wine is second to none. Incredible subtlety and a lovely austerity. Beauty in simplicity. Glorious to taste, yet a wine for decades ahead. 76% cabernet sauvignon, 13% merlot, and 11% cabernet franc. 800 cases made.

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18

**BOND NAPA VALLEY ST. EDEN 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

Score

99

Extravagant aromas of crushed raspberries and boysenberries follow through to a full body with fabulous velvety tannins and a superb finish of

Vintage 2013

exotic fruit and lusciousness. Mesmerizing now but better in 2019.

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19

**COLGIN CELLARS NAPA VALLEY IX ESTATE 2013**

Country United States

Region California - Napa Valley

Vintage 2013

Score

98

The aromas to this are perfect with black truffle, sage, blueberry and wet earth. Changes all the time. Full body with lots of richness and fruit. The intensity is electric. Chewy tannins yet polished and silky. It lasts for minutes on the palate. A joy to taste (drink) now but it's made for long-term aging.

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20

**DAVID ARTHUR CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY RUTHERFORD ELEVATION 1147 2013**

Country United States

Region California - Napa Valley

Vintage 2013

Score

98

This is a phenomenal wine with incredible precision and length. The tannins are so finely polished and long, giving the wine such persistence. Full, dense and stunning. A wine to enjoy for decades. Fabulous.

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21

**EISELE VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

Country United States

Region California-Napa Valley

Vintage 2013

Score

98

The aroma of dried rose petals is stunning. Hints of dark fruits too. Intensely perfumed. Full-bodied, deep and condensed with incredible depth and subtlety. Powerful tannins that are hidden under the beautiful fruit. The finish lasts for minutes. Precise and gorgeous. Very tight. Needs four to five years to soften and amalgamate. One of best ever from Araujo? The first wine from grape to bottle from the new owner, Francois Pinault, who also owns Château Latour.

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22

**SHAFER VINEYARDS NAPA VALLEY STAGS LEAP DISTRICT HILLSIDE SELECT 2012**

Country United States

Region California - Napa Valley

Vintage 2012

Score

98

A wine with incredible finesse and elegance. Blackberry, blueberry, mineral, violet and lavender aromas. Wet earth floor and stone. Full body, very fine tannins and fabulous freshness. The length and polish is truly exceptional. The hint of austerity makes it irresistible. A joy to drink. But has a great future ahead of it.



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23

**NICKEL & NICKEL CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY STATE RANCH 2013**

<b>Country</b> United States	Score <b>97</b>	Impressive aromas of blueberry and lavender with hints of rosemary. Full to medium body, solid core of fruit and a gorgeous finish. Compacted and refined. Better in 2019 but already fantastic. Best wine ever from here?
<b>Region</b> California		
<b>Vintage</b> 2013		

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24

**CHAPPELLETT CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY PRITCHARD HILL 2013**

<b>Country</b> United States	Score <b>97</b>	Amazing aromas of dark fruits but there's a soulful undertone of forest floor, sweet tobacco and leaves. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and a delicious finish. Ultra-refined. So drinkable now. Harmonious and thoughtful. Elegant.
<b>Region</b> California - Napa Valley		
<b>Vintage</b> 2013		

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25

**INGLENOOK NAPA VALLEY RUTHERFORD RUBICON 2013**

<b>Country</b> United States	Score <b>97</b>	The clarity and precision to this wine are phenomenal with blackcurrants, floral notes, blueberries, and orange peel. Complex and subtle with grace and stature. Full body, ultra-polished and refined tannins and bright acidity. The wine needs three to four years to open on the palate, but already it has a caressing quality to it.
<b>Region</b> California - Napa Valley		
<b>Vintage</b> 2013		

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26

**LARKMEAD NAPA VALLEY THE LARK 2013**

<b>Country</b> United States	Score <b>97</b>	Blueberry, blackberry, and licorice aromas follow through to a full-bodied palate, velvety tannins, and a flavorful finish. Generous yet reserved. Shows class and depth. Better in 2020.
<b>Region</b> California - Napa Valley		
<b>Vintage</b> 2013		

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27

**MARTIN RAY CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY SYNTHESIS 2012**

<b>Country</b> United States	Score <b>97</b>	Love the decadence and rich-earth style to this, which shows plenty of dark fruits. Full-body, velvety, and a caressing texture. The mouthfeel is
<b>Region</b> California - Napa Valley		

Vintage 2012

wonderful here. So easy to love and to drink.

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28

**FUTO CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY STAGS LEAP DISTRICT 5500 ESTATE 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**98**

Very elegant and fine with real tannin tension that drives the subtle fruit at the finish. Full yet very refined and linear. Stoney, mineral core to this with an undertone of bark, wet earth and mushroom. Lightly savory. Endless finish. Purity and focus. Better in 2019 but very fine now. Harmony in a bottle.

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29

**GRACE FAMILY VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**97**

So perfumed and beautiful in the nose with spearmint, blueberry, and blackberry aromas. Full-bodied yet reserved and refined. Very linear and tight yet gorgeous and long. Compressed mouthfeel. Wonderful minerality with a flinty undertone. A young cab with great length and excitement. Needs at least five or six years to open. Wonderful potential.

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30

**ULYSSES NAPA VALLEY 2012**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2012

Score  
**97**

Subtle aromas of crushed berries and tile. Mushrooms. Almost dusty. Full to medium body, powdery tannins and mouthfeel. Bright acidity that gives the wine beautiful and enticing freshness. Gentle and ethereal red. The first vintage of the new wine from the owners of Dominus. The vineyard is located in Oakville near Vine Hill. Drink or hold.

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31

**AMICI CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY SPRING MOUNTAIN DISTRICT 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**96**

A dense and powerful red with amazing depth of fruit and chewy tannins, yet savory and beautiful. Full body, spice, walnuts and plum. Sage too. Superb. Classic Napa cabernet. 260 cases. October release. Better in 2019.

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32

**BRYANT FAMILY VINEYARD NAPA VALLEY BETTINA 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

97

There's a phenomenal nose to this wine with crushed berry, wet earth, wet slate and hints of flowers. Full body with a chewy tannic structure, yet soft and polished. Powerful and rich. Muscular and toned. Has form. Slightly austere tannins. This needs at least four to seven years of bottle age. The high percentage of merlot from Howell Mountain gives this wine a real edge and beauty. A blend of 62.3% cabernet sauvignon, 30.2% merlot and 7.5% petit verdot. Try in 2020.

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33

**TOR CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY BLACK MAGIC 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

97

Complex aromas of blueberries, rose petals, black peppercorns, and black licorice. Full body, firm and silky tannins, and a long and flavorful finish. Integrated and polished. Better in 2019.

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34

**ARROW & BRANCH CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY BECKSTOFFER DR. CRANE VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

97

Wow. Such character and style to this Dr. Crane with lavender, rosemary, flowers and sage as well as dark blueberries. Yet always reserved and focused. Full-bodied, ultra-refined and super long on the finish. A triumph. Drink or hold.

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35

**KATA NAPA VALLEY BECKSTOFFER BOURN VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

97

This is a fascinating red with so much high-toned blackberry, blueberry and stone. Asphalt and tar. Lavender and violets. Full-bodied yet agile and lively. It's seamless and formed. Incredible depth and refinement, yet posture. Cabernet sauvignon and 20% petite sirah. Give it two or three years, but so great now.

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36

**BRYANT FAMILY VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

96

The purity of fruit here is terrific with licorice, black currant and oyster shell. Blackberry too. Full body. The finish is overwhelming with such great intensity and grip. High-tensioned austerity. Energetic and intense. Tannins are austere. Drink in 2021.

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37

**CORISON CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY KRONOS 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

96

A glorious old vine wine with mineral, stone, blueberry, black currant and wet earth. Full body, silky tannins and a long finish. Salty undertone, even iodine. There's an ethereal quality to this that makes you think. Released spring of 2017. 400 cases made.

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38

**PROMONTORY NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

96

This shows beautiful aromas of cedar, walnuts, currants and pine needles. Full body, firm tannins and bright acidity. Vibrant and muscular with a crisp and energetic finish. A lively combination of fruit, tannins and acidity. Better a few years after release but already gorgeous. Juicy. Best Promontory yet, as the first commercial year was 2009.

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39

**PAHLMeyer NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

96

So much purple fruit here like blueberries as well as minerals and black pepper. Full body, firm and silky tannins. Tight and compressed style with great persistence. Better in 2020, but so gorgeous now.

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40

**M BY MICHAEL MONDAVI CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

Score

The purity and brilliance to this wine is fantastic with blueberry, black currant, and boysenberry.

Valley  
Vintage 2013

96

Full body, very fine tannins and a bright finish. The tannin texture is sublime. Give it two or three years to develop. A wonderful example of new Napa.

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41

**YAO MING CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

Country United States  
Region California - Napa Valley  
Vintage 2013

Score  
96

A solid cabernet with a depth of spicy, plum and tile aromas and flavors. Full body, firm and chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Shows poise and real structure. Give it two to five years to soften. Try in 2018.

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42

**ROBERT MONDAVI WINERY CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE TO KALON VINEYARD RESERVE 2013**

Country United States  
Region California - Napa Valley  
Vintage 2013

Score  
96

Aromas of black currants, violets, lavender, and stone follow through a full body, chewy tannins and toned muscular structure. This is a Mondavi reserve that harkens back to the great years of the 1970s. A tribute to the 50th anniversary of the winery. Try in 2022.

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43

**JOSEPH PHELPS VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY INSIGNIA 2013**

Country United States  
Region California - Napa Valley  
Vintage 2013

Score  
95

Extravagant aromas of crushed blackberries, mint, eucalyptus and flint. Full body, round and velvety textured. Rich and flavorful finish. Lusciousness with form. Reserved palate. Very attractive now but better in 2020.

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44

**WORLD'S END CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY PRITCHARD HILL STIR IT UP 2013**

Country United States  
Region California - Napa Valley  
Vintage 2013

Score  
95

A pure and beautiful red with blackberry, chocolate, and light vanilla character. Shows form and tension in a thick and dense style. Better in 2019 but already so delicious and impressive.

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45

**AMUSE BOUCHE NAPA VALLEY RED BLEND 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**95**

With such beautiful definition and balance, this may be the best ever from Amuse. Medium to full body, linear backbone and length, and a lovely, fresh finish. Drink now. Mostly merlot.

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46

**TURNBULL CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE BLACK LABEL 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**95**

Black licorice, blueberry and tar aromas. Full body plus soft and velvety tannins that are polished and delicious. Persistent and beautiful. Drink or hold.

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47

**QUIVET CELLARS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY BECKSTOFFER LES PIEDRAS VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**95**

So much eucalyptus in the nose with blackberry and white pepper. Full body, round and silky tannins and a bright and fresh finish. Chewy and serious. Fantastic finish. A super wine with focus from the Las Piedras Vineyard. Better in 2019.

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48

**VIADER NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**95**

A red that shows lots of black currant and fresh floral aromas. Full body, velvety tannins and a flavorful finish. Yet reserved and very pretty. Refined at the finish. About half cabernet sauvignon and half cabernet franc. Drink or hold.

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49

**NEWTON CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY THE PUZZLE 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**95**

Lots of licorice and graphite here on the nose. Cool and seductive. Full body, very layered and exciting. Superb finish. It goes on and on. The best Newton in years. Beautiful to drink now but better in 2018.

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50

**LEVENSOHN CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY ST. HELENA 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**95**

So much blackberry and black licorice aromas follow through to a full body, chewy tannins and a tight and polished finish. Muscular and fit red. Needs two or three years of bottle age to soften.

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51

**CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY BECKSTOFFER TO KALON VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**95**

A powerful and structured red with firm yet polished tannins that are always present. But there is a richness and intensity of fruit as well. Needs time to soften though clearly outstanding. Better in 2020.

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52

**JCB NAPA VALLEY THE SURREALIST 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**94**

The surreal packaging of this wine with its baroque bottle and kissing heads suggest something very unique. Indeed. It shows balance and pleasure with black currant, spice and cedar undertones. Give it three or four years and see the love.

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53

**SPRING MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2012**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2012

Score  
**95**

This has a lovely dusty character with currant, tile and sweet tobacco. Full body, chewy and beautiful tannins. Wonderful austerity yet softness. Flavorful finish. Delicious now but shows finesse and length. Better in 2019 but so gorgeous already.

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54

**MINER CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY STAGECOACH VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**95**

Aromas of blackberry, walnut and light, wet earth follow through to a full to medium body, light chocolate and a long finish. Refined and polished. Classic style. Better in 2019.

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55

**CAIN NAPA VALLEY SPRING MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CAIN FIVE 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

95

Lots of plum, clay tile and spice aromas from cumin to cloves. Decadent. Full body, ultra-fine and chewy tannins, and lovely energy and verve. Needs two or three years to soften but complex already.

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56

**KRUPP BROTHERS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY STAGECOACH VINEYARD M5 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

95

This is a big and luscious red but shows style and tension. Full body, polished and silky tannins. Very long finish of tar, blackberry and crushed stone. Very tannic. Give it a year or two to soften. Better in 2018.

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57

**HE-LI-AN-THUS NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

95

This shows so much iodine, dark fruits and stone aromas and flavors. Full body, soft and velvety tannins. Full grain yet polished and very focused. Lovely finish. This is the first release from the winemaker of Futo and Jessica Futo, the daughter of the owner of Futo. A blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and petit verdot. From a vineyard in Soda Canyon.

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58

**GRIGICH HILLS ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY YOUNTVILLE OLD VINE 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

94

Wonderful aromas of black fruits, bark and moss follow through to full body, ultra-refined tannins and a long and caressing finish. Shows energy and translucence. Made from biodynamically grown grapes. Better in 2018.

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59

**TREFETHEN FAMILY VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY OAK KNOLL DISTRICT RESERVE 2012**

**Country** United States

Score

A very rich red with crushed blueberry, spice and



**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2012

94

bark undertones. Full-bodied, firm and silky with tone tannins and gorgeous fruit. This is a 2013 cab for aging but intrigues you now. Why wait?

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60

**CLOS DU VAL CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY STAGS LEAP DISTRICT 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
94

Unctuous red with blueberry, blackberry and hints of vanilla on the nose and palate. Full body, very fine tannins and a fresh, clean and beautiful finish. Better in 2018 but already a joy to taste.

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61

**ROBERT CRAIG CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY SPRING MOUNTAIN DISTRICT 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
94

Loads of sweet fruit with spices, blackberry and black currant character. Full body, silky tannins and a bright finish. Sexy and flashy. Drink or hold.

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62

**ROCCA CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY COOMBSVILLE COLLINETTA VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
94

Subtle aromas of blackberry, licorice and light tar follow through to a full body, silky tannins and a long, refined finish. Very sexy. Drink or hold.

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63

**FORMAN CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
94

A ripe and sexy red with blueberry, tile, smoked meat, walnut shell, and terracotta aromas that follow through a full body, velvety tannins and a savory finish. Turns to sage and rosemary. Soulful. Drink or hold.

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64

**BERINGER NAPA VALLEY PRIVATE RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**94**

A dark colored red with intense aromas of blackberry, coffee, treacle tart and smoky oak. Full body and powerful with silky tannins and gorgeous fruit. Remains in balance with a lovely polished texture. Beautiful length. Drinkable now—and will deliver so much more with bottle age.

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65

**MYRIAD CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY BECKSTOFFER DR. CRANE VINEYARD PORTRAIT LABEL 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**94**

Plenty of blueberry, blackberry, fresh herb and sweet tobacco aromas follow through to a full body, velvety tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Full-throttle yet the breaks are on with a bit chewy tannins.

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66

**SEQUOIA GROVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY OAK KNOLL RANCH LAMOREAUX VINEYARDS 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**94**

Wow. Blackberry, wet bark, blueberry and dark chocolate aromas follow through to a full body, ultra-fine tannins and a beautiful finish. This show finesse and style. Drink or hold.

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67

**ZEITGEIST CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**94**

The fresh sage, blackberry and sweet black tobacco aromas and flavors are compelling. Full body, yet shows form and tension. Fresh and delicious finish. Drink or hold.

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68

**GALLO CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY SIGNATURE SERIES 2012**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2012

Score  
**94**

Fabulous aromas of blackberries, blueberries, licorice and cloves follow through to a full body, polished and caressing tannins, and a long, long finish. Needs a couple years to soften but extremely well-crafted.

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69

**SOMERSTON CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2012**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2012

Score

94

I like the blackberry, mint and lavender aromas and flavors in this. Full-bodied, very velvety and chewy, yet has a bright undertone of acidity. Persistent. Better in 2019.

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70

**DAVIES VINEYARDS NAPA VALLEY JAMIE 2012**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2012

Score

94

Dried flowers with lots of black currants and some sweet tobacco. This is rich, full-bodied and juicy with chewy tannins. It has a wonderful intensity yet it remains constrained. Beautiful cabernet from the Diamond district. Long finish. Drink now.

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71

**STAGS' LEAP WINERY CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY THE LEAP 2012**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2012

Score

94

This is really wonderful with complex aromas of blackberries, slate, fresh herb and sweet tobacco that follows through to a full body, integrated tannins and a long, long finish. Better in 2018 but so excellent now.

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72

**CHARLES KRUG CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY VINTAGE SELECT 2012**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2012

Score

94

Wonderful aromas of sweet tobacco, black licorice, lead pencil and graphite. Full body with juicy and velvety tannins that give the wine energy and form. Better in 2020 but try it now.

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73

**POETRY CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY STAGS LEAP DISTRICT 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

94

A cool and linear red with deep dark fruits such as blueberries and blackberries. Hints of mint and mineral too. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Impressive for this vintage. Better in 2019.

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74

**FLORA SPRINGS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY ST. HELENA RENNIE RESERVE 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**94**

Wow. Impressive nose with so much dark and opulent fruit, yet remains floral and precise. Full-bodied palate with lots of licorice, dark chocolate, black currant and toasted oak. Flamboyant yet fresh and lively. Drink now.

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75

**MICHEL ROLLAND NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**95**

Very cool and seductive nose of slate, graphite and purple fruits. Full body, silky and lively tannins. Lots of tension and intensity. Cool and crafted. Best ever under this label. Drink or hold.

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76

**KEEVER VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2013

Score  
**94**

Extremely aromatic with violets, lilacs and blackberries. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and a fresh finish. This is so well crafted and beautiful to drink. Why wait?

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77

**SBRAGIA FAMILY VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY MT. VEEDER GODSPEED 2012**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2012

Score  
**94**

This is very fine and intense with blueberry, dark chocolate and hazelnut aromas and flavors. Full body, firm tannins and a fresh and clean finish. Needs two to three years of bottle age to soften.

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78

**LE PETIT VICE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2012**

**Country** United States  
**Region** California - Napa Valley  
**Vintage** 2012

Score  
**94**

Lots of tar, rubber and blackberry aromas. Full body, chewy and velvety texture. Flavorful and rich finish. Needs two or three years to soften. I like this wine's muscle.

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79

**VICE VERSA NAPA VALLEY 2012**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2012

Score

**94**

A big style but there's depth and length with tension and form. Full body, silky tannins and a flavorful finish. Drink or hold.

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80

**OAKVILLE EAST CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY CORE STONE 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**94**

Very pretty core of blueberry and black currant fruit in this wine with polished tannins and a fresh acidity. Medium to full body, fine and focused. A beauty. Drink in 2018 but already gorgeous to taste.

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81

**ARKENSTONE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY HOWELL MOUNTAIN ESTATE OBSIDIAN 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**95**

Wow. This is very impressive with black currant and wet earth aromas and flavors. Full body, chewy tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Rich yet full of tension. Better in 2019.

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82

**JANZEN CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY BECKSTOFFER MISSOURI HOPPER VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**94**

Lots of tar, asphalt and blackberry aromas and flavors. Full body, chewy and polished tannins. A rich and intense wine with a lot of alcohol but shows form and tension. Better in 2019 but impressive now.

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83

**BUCCELLA CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**95**

A big red with lots of blackberry, licorice and black currant character. Full body, round texture tannins that are chewy and rich. Dry and attractive finish. Give this time. Better in 2020.

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84

**RAMEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY ANNUM 2013**

<b>Country</b> United States	Score <b>93</b>	A cab with tension and brightness plus lots of rose petal, blueberry, currant and lavender character. Full body, firm tannins and a fresh finish. Drink and enjoy on release or hold for a few years as it comes more together.
<b>Region</b> California - Napa Valley		
<b>Vintage</b> 2013		

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85

**BLACK STALLION CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

<b>Country</b> United States	Score <b>93</b>	This is extremely fine and focused with ultra-fine tannins and a beautiful black currant and spearmint undertone. Full and fruity. Yet reserved and interesting. A triumph for the price. Drink or hold.
<b>Region</b> California - Napa Valley		
<b>Vintage</b> 2013		

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86

**STAGLIN FAMILY VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON RUTHERFORD NAPA VALLEY 2013**

<b>Country</b> United States	Score <b>93</b>	A ripe and generous red with ripe berry, smoky meat and leather. Full-bodied, round and velvety. Extremely rich style for 2013. Drink or hold.
<b>Region</b> California - Napa Valley		
<b>Vintage</b> 2013		

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87

**CALLA LILY CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY ULTIMATE RED 2013**

<b>Country</b> United States	Score <b>93</b>	A sleek and polished red with blackberry and lavender aromas and flavors. Medium to full body. Silky tannins. Drink or hold.
<b>Region</b> California - Napa Valley		
<b>Vintage</b> 2013		

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88

**TURNBULL CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

<b>Country</b> United States	Score <b>93</b>	Love the aromas of crush blackberries, black currants and black tobacco. Full body, integrated and rich tannins, and a flavorful finish. Rich yet tensioned. Better in 2018 but so delicious now.
<b>Region</b> California - Napa Valley		
<b>Vintage</b> 2013		

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89

**QUIVET CELLARS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY PELLET VINEYARD 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**93**

Aromas of blackberry, black cherry, moss wood and mushrooms follow through to a full body, round and velvety tannins and a tangy finish. Drink or hold.

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90

**GROTH CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY OAKVILLE 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**93**

Subtle and complex with mint, black currant and licorice aromas. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and a fresh finish. Clean and refined. A delicious cabernet to drink now or later. Yes.

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91

**SULLIVAN VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY RUTHERFORD 2012**

**Country** United States

**Region** California

**Vintage** 2012

Score

**94**

Aromas of blackberry, licorice and stone follow through to a medium body, firm and silky tannins and a fresh and clean finish. Very fine and pretty. Very serious. Drink in 2018

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92

**CASTELLO DI AMOROSA CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**93**

A solid cab with an excellent depth of fruit and core of tannin backbone. Black currant, walnut and dark chocolate undertones with ripe tannins. Shows reserve and focus. Better in 2018 but delicious now.

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93

**PETER FRANUS NAPA VALLEY RED WINE 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**93**

A red with beautiful depth and texture showing a velvety mouthfeel and ripe yet reserved fruit. Full-bodied, flavorful and beautiful. Bordeaux blend. Drink or hold.

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94

**FRANK FAMILY VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY RUTHERFORD RESERVE 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**93**

This shows rich fruit with fascinating blackberry, tile dust and stone character as well. Full body, silky tannins and a savory finish. What wait?

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95

**ST. CLEMENT CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY OROPPAS 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**93**

A balanced and juicy red with plums, currants and roasted meat character with hints of espresso bean. Full body, silky tannins and a flavorful finish. Remains subtle and interesting.

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96

**COHO CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY HEADWATERS 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**93**

Aromas of black currants with dried leaves and hints of cappuccino. Full-bodied with round, polished tannins, lots of blackberry character, some raisiny notes and a persistent finish. 1,710 cases produced.

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97

**SILVERADO VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**93**

A polished and pretty 2013 cabernet that delivers blueberry, slate and blackberry aromas and flavors. Full-bodied yet reserved and tight. Drink or hold.

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98

**WHITEHALL LANE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY RUTHERFORD MILLENNIUM MM VINEYARD 2012**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2012

Score

**93**

Pretty aromas of flowers and ripe fruits follow through to a full body, firm and silky tannins and a lovely dark chocolate, currant and stone finish. Better in 2019.



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99

**CHARLES KRUG NAPA VALLEY GENERATIONS FAMILY RESERVE 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**93**

Plenty of black currants and licorice aromas with blueberries and hints of tar. Full body, fine tannins and an asphalt and slate finish. Drink in 2018.

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100

**ST. SUPÈRY NAPA VALLEY ÉLU 2013**

**Country** United States

**Region** California - Napa Valley

**Vintage** 2013

Score

**93**

Black currants with sweet tobacco as well as espresso undertones dominate the nose of this Bordeaux blend. On the palate, this wine shows concentration, plenty of tannins and a finish with lots of dark fruits. A blend of 65% cabernet sauvignon, 22% merlot, 9% malbec with the balance of cab franc and petit verdot. Better in two years.

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