



USA: Northern California Part Two

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And the Party for Northern California Rolls On

Readers are directed to [Issue 227](#) and [Part One of my Northern California report](#), where I discussed the unprecedented and historic succession of great years, such as 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. It now appears 2016 will end up equally impressive. Talk about an “embarrassment of riches.”

Having just returned from another two weeks in Northern California, everyone was thrilled with 2016. It is a much larger crop than the meager 2015 vintage, which is also showing fabulously well, although most of the red wines are still in barrel. Moreover, the cool August 2016 weather gave the grapes a chance to recover, retain their acidity, and develop more nuances and flavor. Nearly every vigneron and vintner I talked to was thrilled with what 2016 has produced, so the party continues.

All of the following wines were tasted in October, November and December of 2016.

2015 Clos du Val Cabernet Franc Hironnelle Estate

Rating	Price	Drink Date	The 2015 Cabernet Franc Hironnelle Estate looks to be sensational, and possibly the finest wine Clos Du Val has ever made. A beautiful nose of forest floor, white flowers, black raspberry and blueberries soars from the glass of this dense ruby/purple wine. It is medium to full-bodied, but has that surreal and sublime elegance that Cabernet Franc can provide in Napa Valley. Drink it over the next 10-12 years.
(93 - 95)	NA	2016 - 2028	
Producer			
Clos du Val			
From			
Napa Valley, North Coast, California, USA			
Variety			
Source			
228, The Wine Advocate			