

Wine Spectator

TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

11 Enticing Napa Cabernet Sauvignons for \$50 or Less

New reviews of Cabernets and blends from the top California region, up to 91 points



Girard has been based in Calistoga since 2018, but the winery uses Cabernet grapes from several Napa Valley subregions. (Courtesy of Girard Winery)

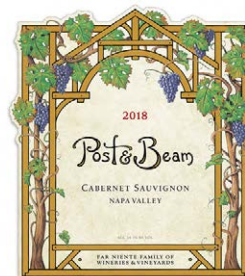
By Aaron Romano

■ Mar 8, 2021

Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon can often be expensive. But there are many wineries making affordable versions in large quantities today, as the reds in this week's selection show. Priced at \$50 or less, they are great starting points for those looking to explore California's most celebrated red grape. Even better, most of these wines are ready to drink now.

This week's top-scorer is a fresh red from Post & Beam, a new Far Niente label. Unlike the single-vineyard bottlings from sister label Nickel & Nickel, Post & Beam's Cabernet uses grapes from several vineyards. The result is a direct and more affordable red with cassis and black cherry paste flavors.

Estate of the Art's Invicta bottling is one of this week's best values at \$20. Made by the team from Merus, it's a bright and juicy version with raspberry, blackberry compote and vanilla notes. Kirkland Signature's Cabernet is a perennial value, and the outstanding 2018 continues this trend with red fruit and toast flavors. And if you'd like to experience Napa's blends, Taken's 2018 uses Cabernet, Zinfandel, Merlot, Malbec and Petite Sirah to deliver a juicy, fruit-driven wine with briar accents.



POST & BEAM

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2018

Score: 91 | \$50

WS review: Fresh and direct, with a beam of cassis and black cherry paste flavors supported with a graphite edge. Ends with a tug of earth amid the fruit. Drink now through 2026. 14,000 cases made.—James Molesworth