

121 GREAT PINOT NOIR • WHERE TO EAT NOW IN NYC

# Wine & Spirits

## TOP 50

WINES IN AMERICA'S  
RESTAURANTS



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# CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**"I GET AS EXCITED ABOUT ESOTERICA** as much as the next guy does, but I have to make sure that there is a really good selection of California cabernet since that's what my guests want," says Dana Farner of *Cut* in Beverly Hills. People did indeed want cabernet this year: it regained the top position among most popular restaurant wines, after three years of falling behind pinot noir. It wasn't just a steakhouse pour, either. "Given my restaurant and the high percentage of seafood dishes we sell, I'm always surprised by the amount of cabernet that moves," comments Chris Bradford of L.A.'s *Crustacean*.

It's Napa cabernet that's a staple. People are comfortable with them, and you can get some great wines for sure, at good prices now.  
**—LYNN WHITTUM, MIZUNA, DENVER**

Most of my time is spent finding things I can guarantee my guests will fall in love with, whether it's a classic cabernet or some new small producer from California. Cabernet is what my guests want.



**—DANA FARNER, CUT, BEVERLY HILLS**

Many headed toward Napa and Sonoma standouts like Jordan, Silver Oak and Caymus. With cabernet's desirability on an upswing, Tonya Pitts at San Francisco's *One Market* noticed that more guests were asking for older vintages, and she ended up selling a lot of the 1998 Dunn Howell Mountain. Other sommeliers also reported that older vintages of Napa cabernet were selling well, from 2003 Corison by the glass to seriously old bottles from the likes of Heitz and Inglenook.

Bordeaux was more of a mixed bag—sometimes hot, sometimes cold. Jeff Hagley of Atlanta's *Restaurant Eugene* added two new Bordeaux to his list and watched them languish. On the other hand, Raj Vaidya's most successful wine this year at *Daniel* in New York was a Bordeaux. "I bought the 2002 Larrivet Haut-Brion for a song and I priced it really well," he explains.

The average price of a bottle of cabernet rose in sync with its popularity to \$88, edging on the high-water mark of \$90 set in 2006.

## MOST POPULAR CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rank	Pts.	Winery	Bottling	Avg. Price
1	97	<b>Jordan Vineyard &amp; Winery</b> HEALDSBURG, SONOMA CTY., CA	Alexander Valley Estate	\$106
				
2	60	<b>Silver Oak Wine Cellars</b> OAKVILLE, NAPA VLY., CA	Alexander Valley	\$130
				
3	60	<b>Cakebread Cellars</b> RUTHERFORD, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly. Howell Mountain Dancing Bear Ranch	\$158 \$248
4	48	<b>Caymus Vineyards</b> RUTHERFORD, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly.	\$145
5	48	<b>Stags' Leap Winery</b> NAPA, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly. Stags Leap District The Leap	\$95 \$90
6	44	<b>Stag's Leap Wine Cellars</b> NAPA, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly. Artemis	\$105

Rank	Pts.	Winery	Bottling	Avg. Price
7	40	<b>Franciscan Oakville Estate</b> RUTHERFORD, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly. Oakville Estate Rutherford	\$57 \$73
8	34	<b>Duckhorn Vineyards</b> RUTHERFORD, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly. Napa Vly. Decoy	\$91 \$83
9	33	<b>Heitz Wine Cellars</b> ST. HELENA, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly.	\$95
10	33	<b>Nicke &amp; Nickel</b> RUTHERFORD, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly. Kelham Vineyard Yountville State Ranch	\$130 \$135
11	28	<b>B.R. Cohn</b> GLEN ELLEN, SONOMA CTY., CA	Sonoma Silver Label Sonoma	\$53 \$66
12	28	<b>Rodney Strong Vineyards</b> HEALDSBURG, SONOMA CTY., CA	Alexander Valley Sonoma Reserve	\$49 \$68
13	24	<b>J. Lohr Winery</b> SAN JOSE, CA	Paso Robles Seven Oaks	\$38
14	22	<b>Raymond Vineyard</b> ST. HELENA, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly. R Collection Napa Vly. Reserve	\$35 \$65
15	21	<b>Faust</b> RUTHERFORD, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly.	\$92
16	20	<b>Alexander Valley Vineyards</b> HEALDSBURG, SONOMA CTY., CA	Alexander Valley	\$41
17	20	<b>Grgich Hills Cellar</b> ST. HELENA, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly.	\$106
18	20	<b>Rombauer Vineyards</b> ST. HELENA, NAPA VLY., CA	Napa Vly.	\$73
19	20	<b>Simi Winery</b> HEALDSBURG, SONOMA CTY., CA	Alexander Valley Alexander Valley Landslide	\$51 \$85