

James Laube's California Cabernets to Buy Now

The wines featured below were selected for their combination of score and availability. An alphabetical list of the more than 800 wines tasted for this report begins on page 127. WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews using the online Wine Ratings search.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
CAYMUS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Special Selection 2010 Openly fruity, showing supple plum and black cherry notes, with floral scents and spices, gaining a mocha-espresso-vanilla.	96	\$130
HARLAN ESTATE Napa Valley 2010 A serious wine that commands attention, with a push of concentrated dark berry, dried herb, dried licorice, road tar and dried flowers.	96	\$800
LEWIS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Reserve 2010 Bold, rich and complex, yet delicate and graceful, showing finely detailed currant, dark berry and licorice notes.	96	\$135
SCHRADER CELLARS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley RBS Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2010 Combines power with finesse, with tiers of spice, flowers and dark and red berry. The tannins clamp down.	96	\$175
SCREAMING EAGLE Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville 2010 Combines deep, firm, rich and potent flavors built around a core of earthy currant, cedar and tobacco leaf, with subtle mocha touches.	96	\$850
BRYANT FAMILY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2010 Seductive oak has a smooth vanilla bean edge, leading to a rich yet elegant core of spicy berry, mineral, mocha, gravelly earth and road tar.	95	\$425
HEWITT Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2010 Deliciously pure, rich and deep, featuring red berry, blackberry and red and black licorice flavors, with wilted rose scents and a seamless finish.	95	\$92
RAYMOND Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Generations 2009 Intense, with tiers of blackberry, mineral, black licorice and chocolate.	95	\$100
ALTAMURA Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2010 Racy aroma, with a dill edge to dark berry, mocha and subtle earth.	94	\$85
ARAUJO Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Eisele Vineyard 2010 Pure, with melted licorice, dark berry, nutmeg and loamy earth..	94	\$315
BERINGER Cabernet Sauvignon Knights Valley Reserve 2010 Strikingly rich and layered, with blackberry, licorice and currant flavors.	94	\$60
BERINGER Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Private Reserve 2010 Dense and powerful. Dark berry, loamy earth and crushed rock flavors show pockets of black licorice, road tar and dried flowers.	94	\$160
CHIMNEY ROCK Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Ganymede Vineyard 2010 Complex, with currant, mocha and tobacco melding on the finish.	94	\$120
COLGIN IX Estate Napa Valley 2010 A rich and elegant mix of berry, licorice, light cedar and loamy earth.	94	\$350
ROBERT FOLEY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2009 Firm and balanced, with dark berry, currant and raspberry flavors.	94	\$86
GEMSTONE Cabernet Sauvignon Yountville 2010 Polished, with juicy blackberry, licorice, loamy earth and nutmeg.	94	\$150
PAUL HOBBS Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2010 Seamless, with currant and berry flavors that glide across the palate.	94	\$350

TOP WINES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
PAUL HOBBS Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Beckstoffer Las Piedras Vineyard 2009 Well-proportioned and tannic, with coffee, crushed rock, and currant.	94	\$175
LARKMEAD LMV Salon Napa Valley 2009 Bold, with dark berry, mocha, herb, black licorice and crushed rock.	94	\$125
CLIFF LEDE Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Poetry 2010 Focused and persistent, with ripe berry, mocha and cedar.	94	\$210
LEWIS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2010 Well-proportioned, with currant, blackberry, dried herb and mocha.	94	\$90
MAYBACH Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville Materium Weitz Vineyard 2010 Plush and full-bodied, with dark berry, plum, licorice and spice flavors.	94	\$150
JOSEPH PHELPS Insignia Napa Valley 2010 Powerful, with mocha-laced blackberry, black licorice and cedar notes.	94	\$225
SCARECROW Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2010 Refined, with berry, fresh loamy earth, dried herb and cedar flavors.	94	\$250
RODNEY STRONG Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley Rockaway Single Vineyard 2010 A big yet graceful style, with dark berry flavors and supple finish.	94	\$75

TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
EBERLE Cabernet Sauvignon Paso Robles Vineyard Selection 2011 Young, with plum, sage and blackberry gripped by thick tannins.	90	\$20
DRY CREEK Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Creek Valley 2009 Supple in texture, with aromas of earth and raspberry.	89	\$25
FORCE OF NATURE Cabernet Sauvignon Paso Robles Mossfire Ranch 2011 Nicely concentrated, featuring juicy berry and cherry flavors.	89	\$20
BERINGER Cabernet Sauvignon Knights Valley 2011 Shows dried earth, herb and leather notes, with a vanilla bean accent.	88	\$29
BIANCHI Cabernet Sauvignon Paso Robles Signature Selection Lakeside Ranch 2010 Juicy, with a core of ripe raspberry, currant and kirsch flavors.	88	\$19
CONUNDRUM Red California 2010 Fresh, complex aromatics echo dark berry, mineral and floral notes.	88	\$22
FERRARI-CARANO Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley 2010 A tasty core of dark berry fruit is rich and firm, with floral scents.	88	\$30
THE HESS COLLECTION Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Allomi 2010 Structured, with pure dark berry fruit, deep and persistent.	88	\$30
CHARLES KRUG Cabernet Sauvignon Yountville 2010 Dark berry, cedar, spice and floral notes lead to firm, chewy tannins.	88	\$29
LOUIS M. MARTINI Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley 2010 Dried herb and sage notes join currant, cedar and dusty oak flavors.	88	\$30
ROUND POND ESTATE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2011 Easy-drinking, with vivid berry, light oak and fresh tannins.	88	\$30