

Decanter

Steven Spurrier's fine wine world



Steven Spurrier
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6
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Decanter's long-standing consultant editor hand-picks fine wines for drinking now and recommends others to lay down...

From the cellar

Napa treats

While in Napa as keynote speaker for the annual Symposium for Professional Wine Writers at Meadowood in February, a highlight was dinner at the Staglin Family Vineyard with marvellous local wines, each presented by their owners.

Hostess Shari Staglin presented her elegant **Staglin Estate Chardonnay 2015** in magnum, followed by a vibrant sparkling wine from Hugh Davies of Schramsberg: the late-disgorged **J Schram 1999**.

Three Cabernet Sauvignons followed: **Quintessa 2004** (Agustin Huneeus Jr), an early vintage from this beautiful estate; **Staglin Estate 2003** from magnum, vigorous and ripe but not too rich; and **Spottswoode 2001** (Beth Novak Milliken), with 5% Cabernet Franc, my wine of the evening – a rich but controlled nose and still some florality which reminded me of a top Pauillac, perfectly expressed. (The 2016 Cabernets tasted at the Premiere Napa Valley auction showed that the 'exaggerated style' is now thankfully a thing of the past.)

The final two wines at dinner were a magnum of **Raymond Generations Cabernet Sauvignon 2007** (Jean-Charles Boisset), still fresh and flavourful, and **Pellet Estate Henry's Reserve Red Blend 2013** (Tom Rinaldi), young but showing great promise.