

INTERNATIONAL WINE REPORT - TOP 100 WINES OF 2019

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As we bid farewell to 2019 our editorial team has gathered to reflect back on the most impressive and memorable wines we have tasted over the course of the past year. This year we had the chance to taste thousands of sensational wines from around the globe, and our team has narrowed down the selection to 100 very special wines which we felt deserve extra special attention. This year's Top 100 is a diverse list of wines that have been selected on based on certain criteria, which include overall quality, price and current market availability. We thank you again for following us throughout the year and we hope you have the opportunity to taste some of these outstanding wines and be just as impressed as we were!

LARKMEAD CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY, THE LARK 2016

RANK: # I OF 100

REGION: CALIFORNIA, APPELLATION: NAPA VALLEY, CALISTOGA

SCORE: 100, **VALUE:** \$360

TASTING NOTE: The 2016 in Napa Valley vintage was one of the best ever on record, and Larkmeads 'The Lark' was a highlight and a clear standout amongst many outstanding wines from this sensational vintage, which is why it has earned our award for Wine of the Year in 2019. Winemaker Dan Petroski has crafted this simply stunning wine from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from a parcel of older vines planted in the the bale loam soils of Larkmead's A Block. It instantly begins to impress with its incredibly expressive aromatic profile that is impossible to resist, offering seductive aromamatics of ripe blackberries, dark currants, tobacco, soil, espresso, spring florals and hints of dark chocolate all coming together and bursting from the glass. This full-bodied Cabernet displays exceptional concentration, precisision and structure, framed with beautifully polished tannins that give way to an expansive mouthfeel that gracefully envelops the palate. Typical of all Larkmead's wines from this vintage, this showcases a wonderful combination freshness, balance, finesse and striking purity from start to finish. This a simply flawless wine from Larkmead, which is nothing short of utterly brilliant today, however there is no doubt it will also have an incredibly long evolution ahead.