

## Vinography Unboxed: Week of 1/28/24

*by Alder Yarrow - February 3, 2024*

Hello and welcome to my weekly dig through the pile of wine samples that show up asking to be tasted. I'm pleased to bring you the latest installment of Vinography Unboxed, where I highlight some of the better bottles that have crossed my doorstep recently.

Ending as usual with some darker reds, I can wholeheartedly recommend the 2021 vintage of Larkmead's Firebelle red blend of Cabernet and Merlot. It's a study in elegance and beautifully managed tannins that will satisfy anyone who likes their Napa Cabernet with poise equal to its power.

### **2021 Larkmead Family Estate Firebelle Red Blend, Napa Valley, California**

Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of bright cherry and green herbs. In the mouth, beautiful cherry, plum, and herb flavors have a seamless quality, surrounded by suede-like supple tannins. Fantastic acidity and length, with well-integrated oak that only shows itself in a touch of woody flavor in the finish. A stunner of a wine that is only going to get better for the next 6-8 years. A blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon and 43% Merlot. 14.7% alcohol. Score: around 9.5.

