

## The 2021 Napa Valley Cabernets

*by Antonio Galloni - Scores published in February 2024*

These new releases from Larkmead and winemaker Avery Heelan show a continued move towards a more nuanced style than in the past. That's a transition that will take some time, as Larkmead had been known for rich Cabernet Sauvignons in line with what most people expect from Calistoga. This is going to be a very interesting chapter for Larkmead, one that could redefine what the estate is all about.

### **2021 Solari, 93 points**

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Solari is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, blended from seven parcels across the estate. The new approach here yields a floral, more delicate wine than in the past. . . This is a very pretty, elegant wine.

### **2021 Firebelle, 92 points**

The 2021 Firebelle is a Merlot-based blend, now with a healthy dollop of Cabernet Franc that adds aromatic presence. Sweet red cherry, mint, white pepper, chalk, rose petal, dried flowers and mocha give this mid-weight, approachable 2021 compelling presence. This is very nicely done.

### **2021 Cabernet Sauvignon, 92 points**

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate is terrific. Bold and explosive, the 2021 shows the more muscular side of the year. Black cherry, tobacco, incense and new leather all meld together in this dramatic, super-expressive Calistoga Cabernet Sauvignon.