



Review: 2018 Larkmead Cabernet Sauvignon “The Lark”

by Christopher Null - March 2024

Rob recently brought us a glowing review of [Larkmead](#)'s iconic Cabernet Sauvignon from the 2020 vintage — and now we're taking a step further up the Napa operation's lineup with a look at the 2018 bottling of “The Lark,” essentially its reserve to end all reserves. The winery's top tier wine is made of 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and is aged 18 months in 100% new French oak from Sylvain Signature cooperage. It's naturally a small production wine with only a few hundred cases produced.

Dark, dense, and loaded with notes of graphite, anise, and thick lashings of currants, the wine cuts a much different profile than Rob's review of the 2020 Cabernet evokes. Today it still drinks incredibly tight and tannic — though much more immense than the 14.1% abv would suggest — with layers of tart plums and black cherries bringing nuance to what is otherwise a monstrous, blown-out experience. Another 10 years in cellar would not be uncalled for with this wine, its notes of charred oak, licorice root, and the darkest of chocolate desperately in need of time to temper. Strangely, much as Rob noted, it somehow still manages to work fairly well today, with enough of a fruity grip to keep all that other palate-searing business in check. That said... in 2034 this is going to be killer.

