

Timeless Wines that will Illuminate the Holidays

By Perry Miroballi - December 1, 2025

2022 Larkmead Solari, Napa Valley

Larkmead Vineyards is one of the oldest family-owned establishments in Napa Valley. Originally founded in 1895, the 115-acre Larkmead estate is now under the stewardship of the Solari-Baker family. Proprietor Kate Solari Baker and her late husband, Cam Baker, have been the dynamic force behind Larkmead's transformation from a historic vineyard into a world-renowned wine estate.

During the first ten years of their ownership, they directed a complete replanting of the property, tailoring the selection of varieties, clones, and rootstock to suit the special characteristics of each individual block. Larkmead's legendary vineyard features a remarkable diversity of soils that are more typical of hillside than the valley floor. Winemaker Avery Heelan captures the nuance and complexity of this site by vinifying small lots according to clonal selection and soil type.



We had the good fortune of experiencing the latest release of this premier and acclaimed wine from Larkmead. Made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, the Solari in the glass shows deep garnet with radiance and viscosity. The aromatics immediately indicated we were in for an amazing ride. There are aromas of crème de cassis, blackberry preserves, pipe tobacco, dark chocolate, a hint of anise, and pencil shavings. The palate is full-bodied, typical of the Solari and is very approachable. It offers complexity and layers of flavors that enforce its status as a standout Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon for 2022. Brooding dark fruit, baking spices and a captivating earthiness lead to exotic flavors that are wrapped around a finely textured core and silky tannins. The finish is juicy, fresh and mouthwatering. This is one of the most polished young Larkmead red wines that I have ever tasted. Typically, the Solari needs 10+ years of cellaring to soften and achieve perfect balance, with peak aging between 15 – 25 years. The 2022 Solari is delicious now after decanting, but can also age in the bottle gracefully for 10+ years.