



Larkmead Vineyards 2023 The Lark Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

96 points

The 2023 The Lark marks the first vintage produced since 2019. A 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, it is a barrel selection drawn from the estate's finest parcels and aged for 22 months in 86% new French oak. This is a powerful, heady wine, and from the first aromatic lift its intensity and sophistication are unmistakable. A clear standout in the portfolio, it opens with slate minerality, blackberry and black cherry fruit, layered with sagebrush and notes of anise. Saturating crème de cassis is framed by super-supple tannins that build through the full-bodied finish, delivering depth and persistence.



Larkmead Vineyards 2023 Solari Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

97 points

The 2023 Solari is the reserve selection from the estate's older vines, and aged for 22 months in 77% new French oak. Sourced from plantings in Cortina gravel and Bale loam, this is a noble wine, draped in rich robes of cassis and black cherry fruit, with sagebrush and deep cedar-spice accents. The palate shows a plush, lush fruit core supported by ultra-fine tannins and dark-toned savoury spices. It is drinking easily now yet clearly capable of long-term cellaring. Much of the quality here stems from improved farming practices, says Maayan Koschitzky, who consults with Avery Heelan. They have been able to irrigate less, resulting in better yields and a superior skin-to-juice ratio, with healthier, higher-quality tannins. In Koschitzky's words, the vines are 'monitoring themselves' more effectively than before – an evolution that is clearly reflected in the wine's precision and depth.



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