

Summer Sips

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2023 Larkmead Lillie

Napa Valley Estate Sauvignon Blanc

Summer heat may beg for chilled wines. But that doesn't mean you have to sacrifice oomph and lush body. Not when you uncork a bottle of the 2023 Larkmead Lillie Napa Valley Estate Sauvignon Blanc, of which I received a sample. It's 100 percent Sauvignon Blanc but made in a Bordeaux-style, meaning it's not only rich tasting but full-bodied.

Fermented in new oak barrels, this isn't your racy New Zealand-style Sauvignon Blanc with searing acidity. Instead, this is a wine that lushly fragrant with grapefruit and white flowers that tastes of lemon curd, milk bread, and melon, and boasts a flinty quality. Highly regarded, it's been described by others as a "Sauvignon Blanc that drinks like a Chardonnay." Though, thankfully, without being achingly oaky.

At \$75 at the winery, it might not be a wine you nonchalantly pour while noshing popcorn and watching Netflix. But if you're having friends and family over for a festive feast of grilled chicken, whole fish, shrimp or scallops, this wine is sure to impress.



Cheers: Founded in 1895, Calistoga's [Larkmead Vineyards](#) is one of the oldest family-owned wineries in the Napa Valley. Since 1948, the 115-acre estate has been owned by the Solari family. Fun fact: Poet and writer Robert Lewis Stevenson of "Treasure Island" and "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" fame was a frequent visitor to the property in the 1880s.