

25 Wines for California Wine Month

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Each September marks California Wine Month, celebrating the country's hottest wine-growing regions and the places that helped put the United States on the wine map some 50 years ago.

California wines were once dismissed as no match for their French counterparts. That changed in 1976 at the Judgment of Paris, a blind tasting where California wines defeated celebrated French labels and established the Golden State as a global wine destination. Here are some proud California wineries and bottles that best-capture why the state continues to reign supreme on all things vino.

Larkmead Vineyards 2017 Solari Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Pulled from the library, this 100 percent Cabernet Sauvignon comes from Larkmead's historic Calistoga estate and spent 19 months aging in French oak. Violet, cassis, and dried herbs are joined by black cherry, plum, bittersweet chocolate, and crushed rock for a taste of Napa with nearly a decade already behind it. \$125

