

Tasting Table.



These Are The 13 Best Cabernet Sauvignons For Every Budget

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Cabernet sauvignon is a popular grape variety that most consumers are likely to come across while shopping for wines or selecting bottles off of a restaurant menu. Often referred to as the king of red grapes, the variety is known for producing some of the most iconic wines of all time. With origins in Southwest France, it has played a significant role in the red blends of Bordeaux. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the world it is often produced as a single varietal wine (though small percentages of other varieties are usually permitted), showcasing its characteristics front and center.

Although cabernet sauvignon grows in vineyards around the world, to produce excellent wines, it requires some know-how in the vineyard and cellar, especially if growing conditions aren't optimal. For this reason, the variety shows up in wines that vastly range in price, from affordable entry-level options to luxury bottles that can cost as much as a month's rent.

As a Certified Specialist of Wine, WSET Level 3 holder, and wine writer with experience tasting cabernet sauvignon from around the world, I put together a selection of bottles for every budget. I've kept it at a level of splurge that some enthusiastic wine consumers might be ready to pay, without going beyond to levels of absurdity. Through this lineup of cabernet sauvignon bottles, you'll discover a range of producers, quality levels, and styles of the renowned grape variety. Prices are based on national averages and accurate as of publication.

Larkmead Vineyards

Estate Cabernet Sauvignon - \$125

Dating back to the late 1800s, Larkmead Vineyards is an important establishment among family-owned Napa Valley wineries. A careful hand in the vineyard and cellar and a balance between tradition and modern practices prove that Larkmead is dedicated to expressing the diversity of the local terroir. With vineyards located between two mountain ranges, the microclimate and soil composition are one of a kind, ensuring unique wines that showcase the land. Larkmead Vineyards farms according to organic practices, ensuring the environment is considered above all.

The Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is made with fruit from one of the winery's historic vineyards and undergoes 22 months of aging in French oak barrels. The result is complex and rich, with notes of dark fruit like blueberry, black cherry, and cassis, alongside notes of cedar, graphite, spice, and dried herbs. The tannins are fine and offer the perfect balance of structure and subtlety, allowing this wine to stand whether you serve it alongside your next roast dinner or wait a decade or more. At \$125 a bottle, this is a fine expression of a Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon.

