

Wine Spectator Insider

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A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

NAPA CABERNET, VINTAGE PORT AND MORE UP TO 99 POINTS: California Cab favorites like Mayacamas and Heitz are packed with fruit and will cruise in the cellar. The 2016 vintage in Port is shaping up to be one of the best in recent decades; the first releases here received staggeringly high scores, from top houses Quinta do Noval, Dow, Graham and more. Plus, outstanding white wines from Alsace, including several single-vineyard Zind-Humbrecht bottlings. Half of these wines—a grand total of 19—scored 95 points or more. *Turn to page 4 for the six Hot Wines.*



CALIFORNIA Cabernet Sauvignon

PHILIP TOGNI

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2015
96 points | \$135 | 790 cases made | Red

A focused, tannic style, featuring tobacco and sage notes intermixed liberally with steeped currant and blackberry fruit flavors. Terrific cast iron and graphite hints flow underneath. This has loads of character and range, showing very vigorous, savory-edged cut. Youthfully rugged, with bramble-edged grip to burn. Cellaring will let all the elements meld. Best from 2021 through 2040.—*J.M.*

LA JOTA

Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain 2015
95 points | \$125 | 1,700 cases made | Red

This is vivid and beautifully rendered, with a dense yet racy core of unadulterated cassis, boysenberry and blackberry puree flavors, flecked with anise, light bramble and polished ganache notes. The long finish shows a great tug of tarry earth while the fruit drives on. Best from 2021 through 2040.—*J.M.*

MAYACAMAS

Cabernet Sauvignon Mount Veeder 2014
95 points | \$125 | 4,396 cases made | Red

This packs in a lot of juicy black currant and blackberry paste notes, with lively licorice snap and bramble accents filling the available space. A roasted apple wood accent lends a mouthwatering edge while a tarry echo at the very end adds range and length. Should cruise in the cellar. Best from 2020 through 2045.—*J.M.*

MT. BRAVE

Cabernet Sauvignon Mount Veeder 2015
94 points | \$85 | 2,960 cases made | Red

This is filled with lush cassis, boysenberry and blackberry compote flavors, supported by dense, lush tannins. The finish is polished, with anise and roasted apple wood notes seamlessly integrated throughout, with a tarry echo at the very end keeping this grounded. A modern expression of mountain fruit. Best from 2020 through 2038.—*J.M.*