

Holiday Gift Guide 2022: Best California Reds In Large Format Bottles

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Few things are more festive at than a giant bottle of wine – it's a great gift for the person who has everything, and an impressive offering at any holiday dinner party. Few things are less festive than bringing a waiting list instead of a wine, so when putting together this assembly, availability was important too. While I'm sure you'd love to give a magnum of Lokoya to your bestie, it's already allocated to the hilt. These vintages are available now, the bottles are beautiful, and many are drinking very well right now if you aren't interested in cellaring.

If you're not sure when to open it or how long to decant, the winery will generally be happy to offer advice. And make sure you serve it at the correct temperature. A beautiful California cabernet will not show well if it's too warm – all you'll get is a mouthful of alcohol. Please decant – if you want to pour directly from the bottle, you can double-decant (only for a young wine though), but you'll need to be careful about sediment.

2019 Vida Valiente The Movement™ Cabernet Sauvignon (\$650)

Feel good while drinking incredibly well — that's the story here. Each magnum includes a \$250 donation to the [Vida Valiente Foundation](#), which in partnership with Stanford University has already raised over a million dollars and fully funded tuition for 25 low-income students for all four years. Conceived by Susana Cueva Drumwright, philanthropist, tech executive, Napa Valley vintner and wife of Hayes Drumwright, who founded cult favorite [Memento Mori](#), both the wine and the foundation were inspired by Susana's experience growing up as a first-generation American daughter of a Mexican father and Guatemalan mother. The team has plans to expand the program beyond Stanford in the coming years. The 2019 The Movement™ was the first vintage for Vida Valiente, sourced from some of the most coveted sites of Napa Valley and helmed by 100-point winemaker Sam Kaplan. It is still pretty tightly wound — it took days, rather than hours, to open up to a lovely experience. It could rest for decades in magnum.