

California GRAPEVINE



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Tasting Notes on New Releases

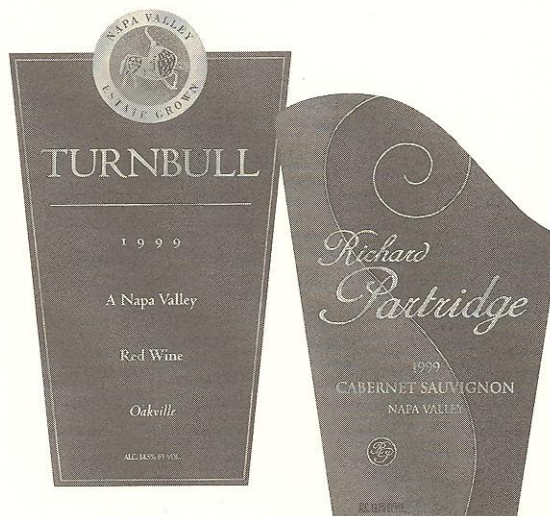
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CABERNET SAUVIGNON New Releases

1. **1999 Turnbull**, "Red Wine," Napa Valley (\$75) – Medium-dark ruby color; attractive, forward, rich, intense, complex, ripe dark cherry fruit aroma; full body; forward, rich, textured, concentrated, cedary, plummy, ripe red currant flavors with good depth of fruit; well balanced and structured; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now with its forward rich fruit though deserves several more years of bottle aging to reach its potential. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 1,450 cases; a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon (CS), 21% Cabernet Franc (CF), 11% Petit Verdot (PV), 9% Malbec, and 2% Merlot; released February 2002.* (Group Score: 16.4 of 20 points, 6 of 16 first-place votes/2 seconds/3 thirds; My Score: 17 [90 of 100 points], first place)

2. **1999 Richard Partridge**, Napa Valley (\$75) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, rich, intense, complex, ripe cherry and cassis aroma with overtones of creamy oak; full body; forward, rich, textured, slightly plummy, ripe red currant flavors; well balanced and structured; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *13.7% alcohol; 581 cases; blended with 9% Syrah and 5% Merlot; released September 2001.* (Group Score: 16.2, 1/4/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], second place)

3. **1999 Chimney Rock**, Stags Leap District, Napa Valley (\$45) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, plummy, ripe currant aroma with notes of vanilla and sweet oak; medium-full to full body; forward, rich, fleshy, toasty, plummy, ripe red currant and black cherry fruit flavors; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Appealing to taste now and should continue to develop elegance with several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14% alcohol; 9,200 cases; blended with 20% Merlot and 2% PV; released January 2002.* (Group Score: 16.1, 0/3/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], third place)



4. **1999 Gianni Paoletti**, Napa Valley (\$62) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, intense, spicy, plummy, red currant and black cherry fruit aroma with overtones of vanilla; full body; tight, herbal, cedary, slightly tart, red berry fruit flavors with hints of richness and a note of green olive; well balanced; medium-full to full tannin; dry, hard finish; lingering aftertaste. Developed with airing in the glass. Needs bottle aging. Highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 1,240 cases; blended with 3% Malbec and 2% Merlot; released May 2002.* (Group Score: 16.0, 3/1/2; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fourth place)

5. **1999 Vine Cliff Winery**, "Oakville Estate," Napa Valley (\$85) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, intense, spicy, cedary, ripe plum, black cherry, and cassis aroma with notes of green olive and leather; full body; forward, rough, cedary, woody, high-extract, ripe black cherry and blackberry fruit flavors with overtones of creamy oak; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Needs several more years of bottle aging. Highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 2,000 cases; blended with 6% PV and 3% CF; released April 2001.* (Group Score: 16.0, 1/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], sixth place)

6. **1999 Sterling Vineyards**, "Diamond Mountain Ranch," Napa Valley (\$40) – Medium-dark ruby; tight, subdued, spicy, cedary, herbal, black cherry fruit aroma that developed with airing in the glass; medium-full body; forward, big, intense, highly extracted, black currant, cassis, and cherry fruit flavors; medium-full to full tannin; dry finish; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.5% alcohol; 6,000 cases; blended with 9% Merlot; released February 2002.* (Group Score: 15.7, 2/2/0; My Score: 16.5 [86/100], seventh place)

7. **1999 Robert Craig**, "Affinity," Napa Valley (\$48) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, intense, spicy, toasty, red currant aroma with notes of charred oak and