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New reviews of outstanding 2010s at prices that won't break the bank

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Tasting Highlights bring the best wines from our editors' most recent tastings to WineSpectator.com members.

While the ripening challenges of California's 2010 vintage are evident in some Cabernets from cooler areas, most bottlings are sufficiently flavored, very complete and ageworthy.

This week's list highlights 10 2010s for \$68 or less. While \$68 isn't inexpensive, it's become more appealing as prices for Napa wines continue to rise.

Pine Ridge leads the way with its supple and generous entry-level Cabernet, a bottling that could compete with other wineries' top-tier releases. Overseen by winemaker Michael Beaulac, who joined Pine Ridge in 2009, this version should be easy to find, with 5,000 cases produced. Also of note is the tight but vibrant John Anthony Cabernet from vintner John Anthony Truchard. And Round Pond stands as one of the better values from the vintage, at \$50. Other smart buys can be found from Vice Versa, Grgich Hills and Robert Craig.

JOHN ANTHONY Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2010

Score: 92 | \$65

Combines a tight, vibrant, juicy mix of dark berry, herb and olive with a dash of cedary mocha-scented oak and licorice, gliding along on the finish, with supple fine-grained tannins and good length. Drink now through 2024. 2,325 cases made. —*J.L.*

PINE RIDGE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2010 Score: 92 | \$54

Pure, ripe plum and black cherry flavors are at the core of this supple, generous youngster. The fine-grained tannins give the flavors traction, with hints of anise, crushed rock and cedar woven in through the finish. Drink now through 2024. 5,000 cases made. —*J.L.*

BOYANCI Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley InSpire 2010

Score: 91 | \$65

Pure, rich and supple, with a tidy core of dried berry, black licorice, dried herb and mocha. This is well-built too, with a firm structure and tannic grip that renders the wine pleasing now and promises a bright future. Best from 2014 through 2024. 284 cases made. —*J.L.*

GRGICH HILLS Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2010 Score: 91 | \$60

A wine that offers a tight, focused beam of loamy earth, dried dark berry, cedar, anise and espresso. Features good length, with gripping tannins.



James Rigler

Grgich Hills is at the top of its Cabernet game with its 2010 Napa bottling.

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Making Pinot on the Edge

Shows Grgich Hills at the top of its Cabernet game. Best from 2015 through 2026. 14,290 cases made. —*J.L.*

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Six to Watch

ROUND POND ESTATE Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 2010

Score: 91 | \$50

Complex and deftly balanced, this offers a firm, dense mix of loamy earth, classic dried herb, currant, anise and tobacco leaf. Ends up finishing like a classy Bordeaux. Drink now through 2024. 4,628 cases made. —*J.L.*

Tuesday, October 15, 2013
California Pinot Noir Cools Off in 2011

More from topic California

VICE VERSA Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Le Petit Vice 2010

Score: 91 | \$65

Pleasingly rich and focused, with a firm core of dark berry, black licorice, dusty earth and dried herb. The tannins cling on the finish, yet the fruit slides through. Drink now through 2022. 750 cases made. —*J.L.*

ROBERT CRAIG Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Affinity 2010 Score: 90 | \$55

Marked by an edge of dusty, loamy earth that gives the currant, anise and cedar a drying edge, yet the finish lingers and the flavors are pure and persistent. Drink now through 2024. 6,000 cases made. —*J.L.*

O'BRIEN ESTATE Seduction Napa Valley 2010 Score: 90 | \$56

Offers a rich array of spicy dried berry, cedary oak, loamy earth and dried herb, all well-proportioned and gaining on the finish, ending with dry, cedary tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Drink now through 2023. 1,394 cases made. —*J.L.*

RICHARD PARTRIDGE Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2010 Score: 90 | \$68

Rich and creamy-textured, with supple plum, currant and blackberry flavors that show touches of espresso, mocha and licorice, ending with tannins that firm, giving the flavors traction. Drink now through 2024. 196 cases made. —*J.L.*

PRIME Cabernet Sauvignon Coombsville 2010 Score: 90 | \$64

Strikes a nice balance between rustic loamy earth and crushed rock and savory dark berry, dried herb and fresh-cut oak. Drink now through 2024. 225 cases made. —*J.L.*