

VINEPAIR

The 25 Best Cabernet Sauvignons for 2020

BY VINEPAIR STAFF



Cabernet Sauvignon is the most popular red grape varietal in the United States, and for good reason: With flavor notes that range from green pepper to dark cherry and leather, it's versatile and pairs as well with a fine dry-aged steak as it does a weeknight pasta dish. And while younger Cabernet Sauvignons are enjoyed for their bold acidity and tannins, those who prefer mellower, subtle red wines will find a lot to love in older vintages.

Of course, with popularity comes a wide variety of producers and prices, which can make deciding on a bottle particularly challenging.

To help, we've rounded up the best Cabernet Sauvignons that we've tried in the last six months. The wines on this list all scored a B+ or higher in our wine reviews, and are arranged by score and price. There are a few worthy splurges, but many fit comfortably in the \$20 to \$50 range, and there are also some surprising bargains to be had—proving that great Cabernet Sauvignon can be enjoyed on any budget.

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Here are 25 of the best Cabernet Sauvignons you can buy right now, with reviews by VinePair Tastings Director Keith Beavers.

CHATEAU MONTELENA CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016 (A)

These days Cali Cabs are powerful, but can lack elegance. This wine is up there in price, but is one of the most powerful, yet elegant wines from Napa. The power of this wine lies in the depth of fruit and well-integrated tannin, forming a confident structure. The elegance resides in the vibrant acidity winding through the wine, allowing you to experience the classic aromas of Cabernet Sauvignon: plum, blackberry, and cracked black pepper. On the palate these two elements are in harmony, adding some cassis and currant notes. The tannin grips the edges, letting the core fruit settle calmly on the palate. This wine is special, and worthy of a night with good friends.