

# Wine Spectator Insider

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A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

FROM NAPA CABERNET TO THE RHÔNE'S CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, this week's *Wine Spectator Insider* is packed with coveted wines from renowned regions. James Laube highlights 12 Cabernet and Cabernet-based blends from Napa Valley, including popular producers such as Harlan, Joseph Phelps, Opus One and Colgin. Among the seven to receive classic ratings, six can be found among this week's Hot Wines, on page 4.

James Molesworth reviews reds from the 2008 vintage of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, a vintage he describes as difficult. However, he notes that the best properties, including Clos des Papes, overcame any natural challenges to produce classic and outstanding wines. Finally, Bruce Sanderson continues with his coverage of 2007 Burgundy reds, focusing on the Gevrey-Chambertin appellation.

## California

### COLGIN

Cariad Napa Valley 2007

**95 points | \$290 | 550 cases made | Red**

Dense, chewy and extracted, rich and layered, with tightly wound blackberry, melted black licorice, new leather, shoe polish and herbal notes that are expansive and gain traction on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2012 through 2020.—J.L.

### BOND

Vecina Napa Valley 2007

**94 points | \$275 | 369 cases made | Red**

Exhibits a pleasing, dense mix of loamy earth, mineral, graphite and dried currant, with touches of blackberry and wild berry. Full-bodied, deep and structured, ending with gripping tannins and a persistent finish. Very young and closed. To be released spring 2011. Best from 2013 through 2023.—J.L.

### ROBERT CRAIG

Cabernet Sauvignon Mount Veeder 2007

**94 points | \$70 | 1,480 cases made | Red**

Firm, rich and chunky, with dense, mocha-laced currant, wild berry and blackberry flavors that are full-bodied and rustic in texture, with a notable mineral and crushed rock quality, followed by a finish that combines tannic strength with fruit persistence. Drink now through 2022.—J.L.

### FAVIA

La Magdalena Napa Valley 2007

**94 points | \$120 | 178 cases made | Red**

Richly flavored, intense and vibrant, with a complex mix of dried currant, loamy earth, sage, cedar, underbrush, graphite and black licorice. Full-bodied, this fans out nicely on the finish, where the flavors get a good lift. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2011 through 2022.—J.L.

### OPUS ONE

Napa Valley 2007

**94 points | \$195 | 17,500 cases made | Red**

Tight and firm, with a chewy edge to the dried currant, graphite, blackberry and mineral notes. Full-bodied and intense, without being weighty, this is well-structured in a Bordeaux-like manner, ending with a complex, persistent finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Best from 2012 through 2022.—J.L.

### SWITCHBACK RIDGE

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Peterson Family

Vineyard 2007

**94 points | \$80 | 1,079 cases made | Red**

Rich and flavorful, with tiers of ripe plum, black cherry, mocha, herb, cedar and dill. Full-bodied, focused, pure and well-structured, gaining nuance and substance on the finish, where the flavors sail on and on, ending with black licorice and raspberry touches. Best from 2011 through 2021.—J.L.