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Stags Leap District's Ultimate 19-Bottle Wine Lover's Gift Set



The collection features limited edition wines from 19 of the best producers in one of the world's best wine regions, the Stags Leap District of the Napa Valley. Only 200 sets will be available from the standout 2012 vintage.

The 1976 “Judgment of Paris” changed the wine industry forever, putting the U.S. on the world’s radar and the best California wines on equal footing with their older French peers. The story, retold in the film *Bottle Shock*, went like this: a mostly French panel of judges conducted a blind tasting of Napa wines and the best premiers cru Bordeaux, or “First Growths,” the world’s most famous and collectible wines (Château Lafite Rothschild, Château Latour, Château Margaux, Château Haut-Brion, Château Mouton Rothschild). Napa won in a huge upset that forever shifted global perceptions. More specifically, the 1973 Cabernet Sauvignon from Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars won.

Ten years later, the same wines were tasted in a second blind competition, which was won by a Napa neighbor, the 1972 Clos du Val Cabernet Sauvignon. Both are part of the Stags Leap District American Viticultural Area (AVA), located on the eastern edge of Napa Valley. About 90% of the 1,200 acres in the AVA are planted with Cabernet Sauvignon or other Bordeaux varietals, and this is likely the single most heralded winemaking spot in the New World.



The first cabernet vines here were planted by Nathan Fay in 1961. To celebrate more than a half century of excellence, the Stags Leap District Winegrowers Association annually releases its Appellation Collection, a unique set of very limited release Cabernet Sauvignon, all made by top producers in the Stags Leap District. It is unique as a vintage and appellation-specific set, and this year's release includes 19 wines, all from different wineries and all from the acclaimed 2012 vintage.

"2012 was a tremendous year for Napa Valley and the Stags Leap District and this vintage is one of the most collectable vintages of the past decade," said Michael Baldacci of Baldacci Family Vineyards and president of the Stags Leap District Winegrowers Association via release. "The 2012 wines show exceptional balance with concentrated ripe fruit, complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet intense, structure. This Appellation Collection truly showcases the quality of wines produced in the Stags Leap District that year."

Represented producers include both historic winners, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars and Clos du Val, as well as Baldacci Family Vineyards, Chimney Rock Winery, Cliff Lede Vineyards, Hartwell Vineyards, Ilseley Vineyards, Lindstrom Wines, Malk Family Vineyards, Odette Estate Winery, Pine Ridge Vineyards, Regusci Winery, Robinson Family Vineyards, Shafer Vineyards, Silverado Vineyards, Stags Leap Winery, Steltzner Vineyards, Taylor Family Vineyards, and Terlato Family Vineyards.

The Stag's Leap Wine Cellars offering is its Fay label, a highly desirable 100% cabernet from the region's oldest vineyard that the winery describes as "an iron fist in a velvet glove." It sells for \$125 when you can buy it individually. But many of the wines on this list are impossible to find, with some made in tiny quantities, less than 200 cases, and several never see commercial allocation at all, entirely sold to mailing list regulars or at the winery. Most retail for over \$80. The set makes a great gift for the wine lover on your holiday list, and is also a way to jump start or instantly upgrade a home collection.

200 sets of the 2012 Appellation Collection [will be available beginning October 15, 2015](#). The 19-bottle 2012 set is \$1,899.00 with shipping and detailed winemaker tasting notes included.

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