

# STAGS LEAP COLLECTION

By Gabe Sasso

RANK

WINE

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1 Baldacci Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** This is entirely Cabernet Sauvignon. Just less than 1,600 cases were produced. Black fruit aromas dominate the nose. The palate is stuffed with continuing black fruits as well as bits of red. Significant notes of chocolate, espresso and wisps of sage are all present on the long finish. There's great structure here with firm tannins and acid. Delicious today, it'll age well over the next 12-15 years.

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2 Chimney Rock Stags Leap District Ganymede Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** This is 100% Cabernet from the namesake vineyard; Less than 1,000 cases were produced. Black cherry and hints of olive tapenade present on the nose. The palate is strewn with dark, rich and well balanced flavors such as currant, cherry and raspberry. Chicory, bits of cocoa and more dominate the above average finish. This is a big and brawny, but balanced Cabernet. It'll benefit from some air or age. In either case, it's delicious.

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3 Cliff Lede Vineyards Beautiful Generation Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** In addition to Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Merlot were blended in. Just more than 1,300 cases were produced. Red cherry and blackberry explode with conviction from the nose here. The palate is stuffed with blackberry and mineral notes. Dark chocolate, tobacco and oodles of spices are present on the long, opulent finish. This will drink well for the next 12-15 years.

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4 Clos du Val Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** All of the fruit came from the Hironnelle Estate Vineyard. Merlot (7%) was blended in with the Cabernet. 800 cases were produced. Raspberry and blueberry aromas lead the nose; bits of savory herbs are present as well. Copious spice notes are evident on the palate which also includes blackberry, plum and dark cherry flavors. Chicory, minerals and a dusting of sweet cocoa reverberate on the long, dusty finish. Delicious today this Cabernet will age well for the next decade or more.

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5 Hartwell Estate Vineyards Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** This was produced entirely from their Estate Vineyard; 600 cases were bottled. The operative words here are dark and brooding. Everything about this Cabernet from the blackberry laced nose to the rich palate stuffed with black cherry, dark chocolate and more all lead in that direction. Blueberry, chocolate sauce and red earth are all present on the lengthy finish. This is a bold and bodacious Cabernet Sauvignon which is balanced by firm acid.

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6 Ilsley Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** In addition to Cabernet (96%), a splash of Malbec (4%) was blended in to this Estate wine. 290 cases were produced. Raspberry and spice aromas practically explode from the nose. Fig, black tea, cherry and more dominate the layered and juicy palate. Clove, cinnamon, earth and cocoa are all present on the memorably long finish. This is a great example of Stags Leap Cabernet that will drink well for the next decade.

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7 Lindstrom Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** This is entirely Cabernet Sauvignon from Lindstrom's, estate vineyard. 1,000 6 bottle cases were produced. Blackberry and kirsch liqueur aromas emerge from the nose. Blackberry and cherry characteristics define the opulently layered palate. Leather, cocoa and chicory notes are all evident on the extraordinary finish. Rock solid acid and firm tannins provide terrific structure.

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8 Malk Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District (2013)

**Comments:** Entirely Stags Leap Cabernet Sauvignon; less than 600 cases were produced. Blue and black fruit aromas lead the nose along with hints of toast and vanilla bean. Leather and red cherry lead the somewhat opulent palate. Espresso, tobacco, clove and black pepper are all in place on the lengthy finish. Solid tannins and acid provide terrific structure and add to the age-worthy nature of this offering. Drink it over the next 15 years.

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9 Odette Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** Odette's Cabernet was produced from select blocks on their Estate Vineyard. Roughly 500 cases were produced. This is one of the darkest and inkiest wines in the collection from the first whiff of Blackberry and boysenberry. There is a mineral laden element that emerges on the nose and carries through the last sip that really distinguishes this offering. Black raspberry and blueberry flavors are at play alongside cherry and spice. Dark, dusty chocolate, red earth and more are all part of the prolonged finish. This is a particularly impressive wine in a collection loaded with them.

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10 Pine Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District (2013)

**Comments:** This is entirely Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from among Pine Ridges' 47 Stags Leap acres. Red cherry and strawberry aromas are supported by hints of black fruit and savory herbs on the convivial nose. The palate is loaded with both red and black cherry flavors as well as bits of raspberry, black pepper and a touch of crème fraiche. Dried mission fig and sour black cherry are evident on the finish along with a dusting of cocoa.

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11 Quixote Winery Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** This is 100% Sauvignon from Quixote's Estate Vineyard. It spent 20 months aging in French oak (50%) new. 242 cases were produced. Dark berry compote laced with bits of clove and nutmeg emerges from the nose. Black cherry, fig and plum flavors dominate the nuanced palate. Bits of caramel, earth and espresso are evident on the notable finish. Delicious now, 7 or 8 years of bottle age will make it more so.

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12 Regusci Winery Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** This is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from the oldest block on their property; 750 cases were produced. Wisps of thyme are evident alongside the more prominent Blackberry and black raspberry aromas. Cherry, spice and hints of dusty cocoa are evident on the palate. Oodles of earth, chicory, dried cherry and more are evident on the above average finish. Firm tannins and racy acid provide excellent framework. This wine is delicious now but will age effortlessly for the next 15-20 years. This is classic Napa Cabernet Sauvignon at its best.

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13 Robinson Family Vineyards Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** A mere 119 cases of this Estate Cabernet Sauvignon were bottled. Black fruit aromas are joined by wisps of fennel and black pepper. Blackberry, cherry and hints of Bay leaf dominate the dense palate. Minerals, earth, cocoa and black tea are all present on the lengthy finish. Mouthwatering acid and solid tannins provide excellent bones for aging. This Cabernet will age well for a dozen years.

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14 Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon One Point Five (2013)

**Comments:** This is 99% Cabernet Sauvignon with a tiny dollop (1%) of Petit Verdot blended in. The fruit comes from a combination of their hillside vineyard and the Borderline Vineyard about 2 miles south of the facility. Red and black cherry aromas are joined by hints of thyme. The palate is robust and beefy

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with continuing cherry flavors as well as black currant and copious spices notes. Dark, dusty chocolate and roasted espresso notes dominate the long luscious finish. Shafer's One Point Five is wonderful today but it'll improve steadily for a dozen years and drink well for 5 or so after that. This is a terrific vintage of a consistently great wine.

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15 Silverado Vineyards Solo Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** This is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from their Silverado Heritage Clone. Black cherry and hints of blackberry are evident on the nose. Plum, red cherry, spices and a core of minerals drive the well-rounded palate. Continued spices, tobacco, sage and reverberating dried red fruit flavors are all present on the persistent finish.

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16 Stags' Leap Winery the Leap Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** This is composed entirely of Cabernet Sauvignon. Each year winemaker Christophe Paubert selects the best barrels of Cabernet to assemble this wine. Black cherry and currant aromas dominate the nose. The palate is stuffed with an astounding array of fresh red fruit flavors tinged with black; Cherry, raspberry and blackberry to name a few. Continued fresh fruit notes are evident on the finish along with savory herbs and wisps of chicory. This is a terrific mouth-watering Cabernet.

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17 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Fay Vineyard (2013)

**Comments:** This is 100% Cabernet, entirely sourced from the Fay Vineyard. Dark violet aromas are evident along with plum and blackberry. The full-bodied plate is studded with blueberry, blackberry, spices and more. Bits of cherry peak through on the finish along with earth and continued spice notes. Delicious today it'll improve over the next decade and drink well for 5 or so years after that.

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19 Taylor Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** This offering is composed of 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Toast, black fruits and hints of dark chocolate are evident on the nose. The palate is stuffed with blackberry, roasted chicory, vanilla bean, and cassis. Bits of kirsch are evident on the finish along with dried cranberry and a sprinkling of mineral notes. Good luck putting this down once you take a sip.

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20 Terlato Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (2013)

**Comments:** 578 cases of this offering were produced. In addition to Cabernet Sauvignon (80%), some Merlot (18%), and Cabernet Franc (2%) were blended in. Black raspberry, cassis and bits of leather inform the nose. The palate is stuffed with blackberry, raspberry and more. Black tea, dried cherries and spices fill out the long, generous finish.

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