

Wine Spectator Insider

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FIRST LOOK AT OUR EDITORS' MOST EXCITING NEW WINES

California

Araujo

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Eisele Vineyard 2003
91 points | \$215 | 1,600 cases made | Red

Wonderful execution of ripe cherry- and currant-laced fruit shaded by spicy, toasty oak that picks up hints of mocha and espresso. Avoids excessive ripeness and is notably well-balanced, with a long finish that shows firm, structured tannins and a touch of mineral. Best from 2009 through 2013.—*J.L.*

Buoncrisiani

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2003
91 points | \$80 | 280 cases made | Red

Dark, ripe and intense, with layers of red currant, black cherry, wild berry and plum, with pretty toasty oak shadings and a tight focus that leads to a long, persistent aftertaste. Shows some heat. Best from 2008 through 2013.—*J.L.*

Colgin

Cariad Napa Valley 2003
91 points | \$225 | 500 cases made | Red

A rich, complete 2003, yet it shows the telltale signs of the vintage with its austerity. Dense, with earthy currant, black cherry and wild berry fruit that's tight and compact. Finishes with tight tannins and persistent flavors that return to the currant and earth themes. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2007 through 2012.—*J.L.*

Dalla Valle

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2003
91 points | \$110 | 800 cases made | Red

Firm, intense and vibrant, with tight, structured red currant, anise, black cherry and mineral notes. Hints of herb, cedar and sage fold in on the finish, where it keeps a tight, persistent focus. Finishes with tannins that are wrapped in fruit and mineral notes. Best from 2007 through 2011.—*J.L.*

Darioush

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Signature 2003
90 points | \$68 | 4,795 cases made | Red

An exciting 2003, ripe, rich and vibrant, with juicy plum, currant and blackberry fruit that's supple and harmonious, revealing layers of fruit complexity and finishing with a long, lingering aftertaste. Drink now through 2012.—*J.L.*

Harlan Estate

Napa Valley 2003
90 points | \$NA | 1,827 cases made | Red

Creamy vanilla oak adds a nice flavor dimension to the rich, elegant layers of currant, blackberry and black cherry fruit flavors. Intense and persistent, it offers a long, complex aftertaste, with hints of mineral and sage. Best from 2008 through 2012.—*J.L.*

Bond

Melbury Napa Valley 2003
90 points | \$230 | 700 cases made | Red

Rich and concentrated, with tiers of currant, blackberry and black cherry that run deep and pure, gaining momentum at midpalate and finishing with a strong, intense, focused finish. Shows a trace of heat, but delivers lots of enticing flavors. Best from 2007 through 2013.—*J.L.*

Joseph Phelps

Insignia Napa Valley 2003
90 points | \$150 | 12,000 cases made | Red

Supple, polished and harmonious, though not in the class of the 2002, it nonetheless delivers a complex range of rich currant, berry and cherry fruit, cedary oak, hints of anise and sage and a persistent, lingering finish. Mildly tannic. Drink now through 2011.—*J.L.*