

TASTING HIGHLIGHTS: 2005 NAPA CABERNET

A dozen excellent Cabernets, but at prices that may very well break the bank
by James Laube

The personality of the 2005 vintage is shaping up: intensity and structure, along with great purity and depth of fruit. The best of the 2005's have intense color and concentration and excellent structure with good acidity and lower alcohols. The stars include a handful of wines showing both power and finesse...the bad news: Cabernet lovers will pay an average of \$113 for an outstanding wine.

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A DOZEN EXCELLENT 2005 NAPA VALLEY CABERNETS

2005 DARIOUSH SIGNATURE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 92 | \$80

Intense, with firm tannins wrapped around a tight core of dried currant, anise, sage, cedar and mineral flavors. This has excellent structure, depth and focus. 9715 cases made. —J.L.

COLGIN Herb Lamb Vineyard **\$275** | Score: 97 | **110 cases**

COLGIN Tychson Hill Vineyard **\$275** | Score: 97 | **250 cases**

COLGIN Cariad **\$275** | Score: 94 | **900 cases**

COLGIN IX Estate **\$275** | Score: 94 | **1500 cases**

HUNDRED ACRE Ark Vineyard **\$250** | Score: 93 | **700 cases**

HUNDRED ACRE Kayli Morgan Vineyard **\$250** | Score: 93 | **1200 cases**

MACAULEY Oakville Beckstoffer To Kalon **\$125** | Score: 92 | **220 cases**

REALM Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard **\$95** | Score: 96 | **302 cases**

REALM Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard **\$85** | Score: 94 | **558 cases**

REALM Farella Vineyard **\$85** | Score: 91 | **441 cases**

SWITCHBACK RIDGE Peterson Family Vineyard **\$78** | Score: 92 | **1158 cases**