

BUYINGguide

of dark chocolate and toasted cedar wood. It's a glamorous wine, although it may be too soft to age. Drink now—2014. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$75

92 Cali 351 2008 Founder's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is an amazingly rich Cabernet, packed with classic Napa blackberry, blueberry and dark chocolate flavors. It's opulent even by California standards, and is a little sweet. With firm, pronounced tannins, it's gritty in texture. Defines Napa ripeness, but at this point it's rude and jammy. Give it a good six years. Could be one for the long haul. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$75

92 Coup de Foudre 2009 37.2 Cuvee (Napa Valley). This is a Merlot and Cabernet Franc blend from Calistoga. The wine is made in the Coup de Foudre style, which is soft, sensual and immediately attractive. Shows blueberry, black cherry and dark chocolate flavors, with a deft touch of oak, but also notable tannins. Seems too soft to age, so drink over the next four years. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$75

92 Coup de Foudre 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Another rich, soft, sensual release from this winery. Cabernet doesn't get riper than this, showing flashy, decadent blackberry, blueberry and currant flavors, liberally enriched with toasty oak. Seems too sweet and soft for aging, but a flashy wine to drink now. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$95

92 Crosby Roamann 2009 Dark Garden Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$60

92 Knights Bridge 2008 Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). So sweet and rich, it's almost like a dessert in the form of wine. Oozes decadent blackberry jam, milk chocolate and toasty oak flavors. The fruit is so ripe, it veers into raisins, but not too much. Drink this flashy wine over the next four years. —S.H.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$135

92 M by Michael Mondavi 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich and dramatic by any standards, this new release offers a blast of ripe blackberry, currant and mineral flavors. New oak adds the perfect touch of smoky caramel. It's pretty tannic, yet drinkable now after a good decant. Should age well throughout the decade. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$200

91 Martin Ray 2009 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.6% Price: \$25

91 Peju 2008 Fifty/Fifty (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

91 Rua 2009 Merlot-Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

91 Sebastiani 2008 Cherryblock Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$95

91 Three Sticks 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). A seriously good Cabernet that advances the cause of Sonoma Valley. It's soft and rich and decadently good, offering wave after wave of blackberry pie, cherry jam and sweet oak flavors that are a little on the sweet side. Shows enough acidity and tannin structure to provide balance. Drink now with a good steak, chop or lamb dish. —S.H.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$65

91 Trefethen 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.6% Price: \$58

90 Courtney Benham 2009 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$40

90 Evolve 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). Shows the firm tannins of this mountain appellation, and also ripe, concentrated blackberry, cassis and dark chocolate fruit. Easy to drink now for its rich appeal, but should age well for six years or so. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$30

90 Hughes Wellman 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

90 Signorello 2008 Padrone Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Few wines in the world are richer than this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It's extraordinarily powerful in ripe, concentrated raspberry, cherry and blackberry jam, liberally oaked. Soft and velvety, it seems designed to appeal to sheer hedonism, at the cost of ageability. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$135

90 Trinchero 2008 Cloud's Nest Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.6% Price: \$60

90 Trinchero 2008 Haystack Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$60

90 Trinchero 2008 Mario's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$60

89 Broll Mountain Vineyards 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon (Calaveras County). Broll

is showing some nice finesse here, even though it's still stylistically a big wine. Its leathery, savory and earthy notes really linger on the lengthy finish, all brick and tar and still, even after all this time in bottle, tight. Though 15.5%, the wine doesn't taste hot and could develop for another 2–3 years to come. —V.B.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$32

89 Hall 2008 Bergfeld Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). The big question about this wine is will it age. It certainly appeals to the palate for its flashy sweetness, ripe in blackberries, raspberries, cherries and cocoa. And there's a generous overlay of oak. Still, it's hard to get past a certain directness. Your best bet is to stash it away and keep your fingers crossed over the next six years. —S.H.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$100

89 Martorana 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Amazing extraction on this vigorous young Cabernet, which is much riper and smoother than the 2006 was. Just explodes in ripe summer cherries and raspberries, with a sweet edge of oak. Fuzzy Dry Creek tannins provide the perfect structure. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$45

89 Parallel 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Made in the Parallel style of soft, rich tannins and ultraripe fruit, this Cabernet is instantly flashy for its wealth of blackberries, black currants, dark chocolate and oak. Defines the modern Napa style, although it's too soft to age, so drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$55

89 Signaterra 2008 Sunny Slope Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). Smooth in tannins, rich and ripe in black cherry, mocha and spice flavors, and beautifully oaked, this Cabernet shows real elegance and style. It's a bit earthier and more abrupt than the modern style exemplified in neighboring Napa Valley, but still a fine wine. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

88 Cameron Hughes 2009 Lot 267 Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain). Impressive in concentrated mountain fruit, this Cabernet has a gigantic core of ripe blackberries, blueberries and cherries. It's a sweet wine, in the fruity sense, but is fully dry, and balanced with fine tannins and acidity, not to mention a firm minerality that comes from the earth. —S.H.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$22

88 Cameron Hughes 2009 Lot 278 Meritage (Spring Mountain). Good price for a wine this rich and pleasing. With masses of blackberries, cherries, currants, anise and cedar folded into firm tannins, it's ready to drink now. Just might be the best value you'll find in a Spring Mountain wine, red or white. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$18

88 Cameron Hughes 2007 Lot 287 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Lots of rich blackberries, cherries and chocolate in this Cab, but it's no mere fruit bomb. It's saved by a fine structure of acids and tannins. Very nice price for a wine this good. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20