

Uncovering the Best Values in California Cabernet Sauvignon (Oct 2015) | Vinous

Every fall I publish my big Napa Valley report and every year I hear the same comment from readers. Quite understandably, consumers are increasingly frustrated by the continuing escalation of prices for Napa Valley's finest wines. But top-flight California Cabernet doesn't have to cost a fortune. These are three rules of thumb for getting the most out of your budget, along with a selection of wines that deliver exceptional quality for the money.

1) Focus on Napa Valley's 'Super-Seconds'

A total obsession with quality and heated competition has pushed Napa Valley's most ambitious estates to bottle only the very best under their top label(s). What about the rest of the production? At the top properties, it is often terrific. These wines all deliver superb quality and relative value. The best of the wines below compare favorably to the flagship labels at many other estates. With the exception of David Abreu's red blend Rothwell Hyde, all of these wines can be had for less than \$100 a bottle.

Top Picks

Abreu Rothwell Hyde

Blankiet Prince of Hearts

Bryant Family Vineyards DB4

Dalla Valle Collina dalla Valle

Dominus Cabernet Sauvignon Napanook

Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon

O'Shaughnessy Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon One Point Five

Spottswode Cabernet Sauvignon Lydenhurst

Seavey Cabernet Sauvignon Caravina