

Lake County

LAKE COUNTY HAS **THE CLEANEST AIR** IN CALIFORNIA, ACCORDING TO THE STATE'S AIR RESOURCES BOARD.

RANK OF CABERNET SAUVIGNON AMONG WINE GRAPES GROWN HERE:

#1

RED SOIL, RED WINE. Up until a few years ago, Lake County's main claim to fame was bass fishing on Clear Lake, which ESPN once named the second-greatest bass-fishing lake in the country (Lake Amistad in Texas beat it out). But, more important for wine lovers, the extinct volcanoes that ring the lake offer iron-rich soil that is ideal for Cabernet. Lake County Cabernets, especially from the Red Hills and High Valley appellations, tend to be concentrated, often with a distinct mineral edge.

GET STARTED

2012 CAM Collection Lake County Cabernet Sauvignon (\$18) Cabernet this good made from low-yielding, 40-year-old vines would normally run twice this price.

GET SERIOUS

2012 Shannon Ridge Home Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (\$30) A flock of 1,100 sheep help crop weeds from the vineyards that produce this lightly toasty Cabernet.

GO DEEP

2011 Obsidian Ridge Half Mile (\$60) A ringer for a \$100 Napa wine, this rich red comes from a vineyard strewn with obsidian pieces ranging in size from pebbles to boulders.

DEAD VOLCANOES MEAN GOOD WINE

Iron-rich, volcanic soils help give wines minerality and good natural acidity.

ROCK OUT

Rocky soils, like those at Obsidian Ridge, drain rapidly, keeping vine yields low. That helps intensify flavor.

SOIL SISTERS

Other volcanic wine regions include Etna in Sicily, Santorini in Greece and Atlas Peak in California.



THIRSTY FOR MORE?

For more terrific Cabernets from these regions, visit foodandwine.com/cabernet.



Guillaume Fabre of Clos Solène makes some of Paso's best Cabernets (clossolene.com).

Paso Robles

OF THE WINERIES IN PASO ROBLES, **MORE THAN 70%** MAKE CABERNET SAUVIGNON.

MORE THAN **130** WINERIES HAVE TASTING ROOMS.

IN 1868, **JESSE JAMES** VISITED PASO ROBLES'S FAMOUS MUD BATHS TO SOAK HIS BULLET WOUNDS.

SOLAR POWER. Paso Robles is famous as a source for big, bold, rich Zinfandels, wines supercharged by the region's seemingly inexhaustible warmth and sunlight. But the truth is that Paso Robles, which is located between Monterey and Santa Barbara, inland from the Pacific Coast, has more Cabernet Sauvignon planted than any other wine grape variety. These aren't shy wines: Paso Robles Cabernets exemplify richness, often showing notes of ripe blackberry and plum, soft tannins and plenty of concentration.

GET STARTED

2012 J. Lohr Seven Oaks Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon (\$17) It's a great introduction to the Paso style—dark, ripe and lush—and, despite the name, it isn't overly oaky either.

GET SERIOUS

2012 Justin Cabernet Sauvignon (\$25) Justin Baldwin, a Paso Robles pioneer, started his winery in 1981 with a focus on classically styled, cedary Cabernets like this one.

GO DEEP

2012 Daou Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$65) This intense bottling from Lebanese-French brothers Daniel and Georges Daou shows the strengths of the superb 2012 vintage.