

came to this Oak Knoll estate in 2010 after serving as the reserve red winemaker at Robert Mondavi Winery. He produced a sleek 2011, with soft, supple tannins that glide past the fruit, lending a cedary note to the finish. It's brisk, peppery and gently honeyed in the end. Pour it with braised lamb. (W&S 4/15; 500 cases) *Ideology Cellars, Napa, CA*

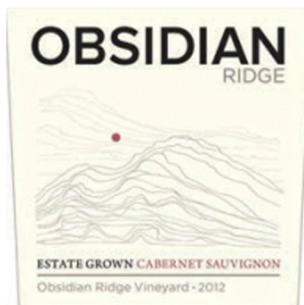
91 | Lexington \$55

2011 Santa Cruz Mountains Gist Ranch Estate Cabernet Sauvignon This starts off tight and spicy, with aromas of cedar bark and the bright acidity of a barely ripe blackberry. It turns softer with air, relaxing into a cushioned cassis tone that's delicious if not particularly complex. Cellar it for a few years, then open it for roast beef. (W&S 2/15; 1,223 cases) *Lexington Wine Co., Portola Valley, CA*



91 | Mt. Brave \$75

2012 Mt. Veeder Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Chris Carpenter blends this wine from the varied expositions of the Mt. Brave vineyard, an estate planted by Château Potelle at 1,400 to 1,800 feet and purchased by the Jackson family in 2007. It's a big wine with ample blue fruit layered over conifer scents and rustic, earthy tannins. With the immediacy and brash power of Veeder, this wine would mellow in a decanter, to pour alongside a grilled steak, though it will prove more accommodating with a few years in bottle. *Mt. Brave, Oakville, CA*



91 | Obsidian Ridge \$30

2012 Red Hills Lake County Obsidian Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon This vineyard, planted in red volcanic soil at 2,500

feet of elevation in the hills above Clear Lake, produced a cabernet with cool, mountain-grown density. The fruit is rich enough to draw the stony granularity of its tannin into a satisfying line, as scents of cassis and pine duff fill its juicy wild-blueberry flavor with some savory detail. *Tricycle Wine Partners, Sonoma, CA*

91 | Paul Dolan Vineyards \$25

2012 Mendocino County Cabernet Sauvignon Lush but not at all heavy, this organically grown cabernet feels a bit old-school, with mint and cedar-bark aromas spicing its persistent blue fruit. It's not particularly intense or impactful, just delicious and bright—a cabernet that's restrained enough for duck breast. (W&S 10/15; 3,500 cases) *Paul Dolan Vineyards, Ukiah, CA*

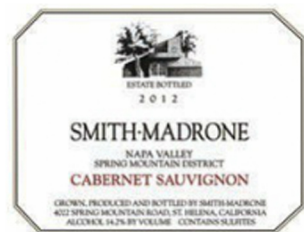
91 | Ridge \$50

2012 Santa Cruz Mountains Estate Monte Bello Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Ridge's Estate Cabernet consists of lots that don't make it into the Monte Bello—often blocks with richer soils. The 2012 smells and tastes a lot like Monte Bello, with deeply savory aromas of matsutake and cedar that lead into a deep wash of black currant flavor. It's the structure that's different—broader, with fat, chewy tannins that distinguish it from Monte Bello's seamless elegance. The pungency of its American oak—potent vanilla and fennel aromas—integrates with air, while bright mountain-grown acidity focuses the finish toward a graceful red-fruit character. It's an appetizing cabernet that deserves another five years in bottle. (W&S 10/15; 3,000 cases) *Ridge Vineyards, Cupertino, CA*



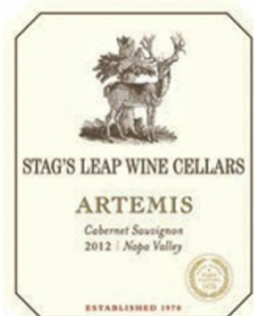
91 | Simi \$35

2012 Alexander Valley Landslide Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon This feels densely packed, its black tannins spiced with oak. However, there's plenty of drive to its acidity, and it opens into a bright cabernet with flavors of black currant, cranberry and bitter chocolate. It's worth aging for another five years or more. *Simi Winery, Geyserville, CA*



91 | Smith-Madrone \$48

2012 Spring Mountain District Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Minty and tense, this is a narrow vintage of cabernet from the heights of Spring Mountain. There's black-fruited flesh to it, along with pine-forest scents that make it both rich and skinny. (Can a wine ever be too skinny and too rich?) A potent, youthful cabernet, this is built for the cellar. (W&S 10/15; 1,815 cases) *Smith-Madrone, St. Helena, CA*



91 | Stag's Leap Wine Cellars \$55

2012 Napa Valley Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon Artemis is SLWC's cabernet blend from purchased grapes and, in 2012, it's broad and juicy, emphasizing full-on depths of plum-skin flavor and richness while retaining freshness in the fruit. Generous in its creamy texture, this is a match for filet mignon. (W&S 6/15) *Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, Napa, CA*



91 | Stags' Leap Winery \$90

2011 Stags' Leap District Napa Valley The Leap Cabernet Sauvignon Dark and concentrated up front, this charges forward with purple-black fruit, then narrows to resinous,