



33rd Annual Best of The Best: California Cabernet Sauvignon and Proprietary Red Blends

QRW Tasting Team



Wines of extraordinary character and quality — in a class by themselves.



2012 Caymus Special Selection (Napa Valley), \$165.

100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Intense, pure, voluptuous, ultra-concentrated, blackberry and oak vanillin flavors. Palate boggling stuff. **CO-BEST OF SHOW**

2012 Ridge Monte Bello (64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, and 6% Verdot), Santa Cruz, \$175.

Earthy, minerally, rich blackberry, with lacing of anise/cassis, oak spice, huge structure, and rich, deep, long finish. **CO-BEST OF SHOW**

2012 Cakebread Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Benchland Select (Napa Valley), \$125. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Blackberry, plum, coffee and oak vanillin flavors; staunch, muscular structure, long finish.

2012 Corley Cabernet Sauvignon State Lane Valley/Yountville), \$75. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Concentrated, well-structured, black fruit and French oak flavors.

2012 Dry Creek Vineyards The Mariner (Dry Creek Valley), \$48. 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 8% Malbec, 8% Cabernet Franc. Big, rich, mouth-filling, blackberry and plum flavors supported by staunch tannins.

2012 J. Davies Diamond Mountain District, Napa Valley), \$48. Plum, oak spice, blackberry flavors, silky tannins, with elegant, delicious, and stylish finish.

2012 Madrigal Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley), \$43. 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Petit Verdot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec, 2% Merlot. Intense, plush, well-modulated, anise, blackberry and coffee flavors.

2012 Paraduxx Proprietary Red (Napa Valley), \$48. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Zinfandel, 3% Petit Verdot. Big, rich, powerful, utterly prepossessing, blackberry, coffee and oak vanillin flavors.

2012 Madrigal Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley), \$43.

75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Petit Verdot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec, 2% Merlot.

Intense, plush, well-modulated, anise, blackberry and coffee flavors.

