

# THE CABERNET CUP

Coonawarra and Stags Leap might both be deemed worthy of the world's Cabernet Sauvignon crown, but determining the who, what and why behind these two prestigious regions is not quite as clear cut. LARRY WALKER and MAX ALLEN inspect their national assets, while our tasters compare the most recent vintage from each to determine whether their status is justified

## STAGS LEAP

A few years after his 1973 Stag's Leap Cabernet had topped the best of Bordeaux at the famous (or infamous, depending on your perspective) 1976 judgment in Paris, Warren Winiarski said his goal was to make wines that were like 'an iron fist in a velvet glove'.

I don't mean to second guess Winiarski, who put the Stags Leap district of Napa Valley on the map, but the key part of that description is the 'velvet glove'. Since the mid-1970s, California Cabernet, or the best of it at any rate, has moved away from sheer concentration (the 'iron fist') toward a silky, luscious style; a much more hedonistic approach to wine. There are, of course, still a few lumbering monsters from the Pleistocene, but let's not worry about them.

One can endlessly debate the source of the 'best of this' or 'the best of that' – that's what this article is about, isn't it? – but a careful tasting of Stags Leap wines turns up a higher percentage of really good Cabernet than any other Napa region, or so it seems to me. It is a small base to work from, it's true. There are fewer than 20 wineries making wine on a regular basis from the Stags Leap AVA – but what wines they are.

The tasting profile for a Stags Leap Cabernet begins with a supple opening, with softer tannins in the centre and a rich perfume of violets and cherries. The best have that subtle element of balance; there are no sharp elbows poking you in the palate, and no harsh unresolved tannins to muddle the long silky finish.

So, why do Stags Leap Cabernets differ so dramatically from the Cabernets of the Rutherford Bench or Howell Mountain, only a few miles away and also in Napa Valley? Good question. The winemakers I ask really have no answers.

'I don't think anybody knows where it comes from,' says Warren Winiarski, referring to the Stags Leap flavour profile. 'You could guess forever. Is it the soil? We do have a lot of volcanic soils, but we also have upland alluvial soils. In our vineyards, we have both. The weather? It could be that. It is easier to describe what the wines taste like than why they taste the way they do.'

One theory involves the 1,200 foot column of basalt



## SIZING UP STAGS LEAP

The Stags Leap District American Viticulture Area (AVA) is roughly 1% of the size of the Napa Valley appellation, which surrounds it. The AVA is 1,093 hectares in size with only half of that planted with grapes, primarily Cabernet Sauvignon. The district is tucked into a three-mile by one-mile area bordering the Silverado Trail and defined by the jagged outcroppings of the Vaca Range to the east, the Napa River to the west and south, and Yountville Cross Road to the north.

The AVA was approved in 1989, but only after a lengthy and bitter dispute over the size of the appellation. Eventually, the earlier and smaller appellation was expanded to include holdings by Robert Mondavi and the Disney family (Silverado Vineyards) as well as S Anderson vineyards.

rocks that thrusts abruptly up at the eastern edge of the AVA. The theory is that these stones catch and hold the heat from the afternoon sun, releasing it slowly through the night to the benefit of the wine grapes below. This natural tower of stone also gives the district its name – the story isn't clear, but involves a large and legendary stag that leaps to its death from the sheer cliffs, rather than be slain by a hunter. Sometimes the hunter is a native American, sometimes a European settler, and sometimes a mountain lion.

Douglas Fletcher, winemaker at Chimney Rock who has made Cabernet in the district for 25 years, agrees with Winiarski that there is no certain answer to explain the distinctive quality of Stags Leap Cabernet. After studying comparative temperature readings, however, he is ready to consider the heat radiation theory.

'If you look at the heat summation data for the valley, the Stags Leap averages look more like Rutherford or further north,' he says. Rutherford lies north (and west) of Stags Leap, which means it's further from the cooling influence of San Francisco Bay. 'But heat isn't the whole story. We've also had soil analysis done and the results were inconclusive,' Fletcher adds.

Nevertheless, Fletcher believes Stags Leap is distinctive, starting with the taste of the grapes themselves. 'If you taste grapes from various parts of Napa Valley, it's easy to distinguish the fruit from Stags Leap. You can sometimes be fooled by the wine, because that involves winemaking styles, but not by the grapes.'

'I don't know if any of us know exactly what makes the difference,' Fletcher admits. 'But I do know that Stags Leap is the best place in the world to grow Cabernet.' Jack Stuart, winemaker at Silverado Vineyards, agrees it is difficult to pin down the source of Stags Leap quality. 'There are so many variables. You can't credit any single one. However, I can propose a handful that may be significant,' he says.

'The geography, by which I mean the sum of the soil, slope and exposures for starters. The best Stags Leap soils are rocky, red and well drained, derived from volcanic rhyolite rather than alluvium. This means the root zone holds less moisture and is warmer,' he reports.





From vine to velvet: hand-harvesting Cabernet Sauvignon grapes in Fay Vineyard of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars in Napa Valley, California

Stuart adds that most of the good Stag's Leap vineyards have a western or south western exposure, which gives more direct solar heat. 'The district is made up of a series of hills and ridges that creates slopes and bowls, which give favourable exposure and contribute to a complex pattern of airflow on and above the vineyards.'

He concedes that he isn't sure what the wind phenomenon has to do with wine quality. 'But it is something that distinguishes Stag's Leap from the rest of Napa Valley,' he says.

So, what accounts for the velvety texture, violets and fruit, deceptive softness, and longevity of these wines? 'I don't really know,' Stuart says. 'What makes Margaux different from Pauillac?'

Another good question, especially as many would agree that Margaux is a close cousin to Stag's Leap in terms of flavour profile. There is also, as Stuart points out, the matter of longevity, although I have a problem keeping my corkscrew away from Stag's Leap Cabernet long enough for them to age. However, there is little

doubt that Stag's Leap wines age beautifully. Some of the best vintages of the last 20 years include the 1984, '86, '88, '93, '94, '95 and '97. The '99, which is the current release for most Stag's Leap wineries, should continue to improve in bottle for at least the next 12 to 15 years.



**It is easier to describe what the wines taste like than why they taste the way they do**  
**WARREN WINIARSKI**

Tasting through a flight of the 1999 Stag's Leap Cabernets, it is clear that the wines are of the same 'family'. There is a subtle, understated elegance and a richness that clearly say 'I'm Stag's Leap'. If the Stag's Leap Cabernets sometimes fail to win the praise they deserve, it is probably because some critics are too blinded by the wines' concentration and sheer power to also notice their grace and charm.

LARRY WALKER is Wine Magazine's West Coast correspondent.



## COONAWARRA

However you choose to look at it, Coonawarra is Australia's pre-eminent region for Cabernet Sauvignon. Not that the long, narrow cluster of vineyards huddled in the cool south-eastern corner of South Australia has all that much competition, mind you.

Although Australia boasts over 60 distinct wine regions, from the very large and old such as the Barossa, to the very small and new, such as Gundagai in southern New South Wales, it would be fair to say that just three of these regions – Coonawarra, Margaret River in Western Australia, and the Yarra Valley in Victoria – go out of their way to claim Cabernet as their best-performing red grape variety.

Oh, there are plenty of other regions that produce very good Cabernet Sauvignon – McLaren Vale and particularly Clare in South Australia; many regions in central Victoria, including the Pyrenees and Bendigo; the Great Southern and Manjimup districts in Western Australia – the list goes on. But most of these regions have embraced the worldwide passion for Shiraz with a vengeance over the last two decades, and chosen that variety as the standard-bearer for expressing their *terroir* – at the expense of Cabernet.

In the three regions I've mentioned, by contrast, the most highly-regarded – and, therefore, most expensive – red wines are still resolutely made from Cabernet, or a blend of Cabernet and Merlot (and Cabernet Franc and Malbec and, increasingly, Petit Verdot, in the Bordeaux fashion).

But Coonawarra trumps both Margaret River and the Yarra. Not only does it have an unbroken history of winemaking stretching back to the 1800s, but it is home to a greater concentration of good-to-great Cabernet producers than any other region in the land – from the very large players such as Penfolds (Coonawarra fruit is largely responsible for Penfolds' flagship Cabernet, Bin 707) and Orlando, to medium-sized players such as Katnook Estate and Petaluma, through to the small, family-run places such as Bowen Estate, Majella, Balnaves and Zema.

There are very physical signs of the variety's affinity with the region and its people, too. In terms of area, Cabernet out-hectares Shiraz by three to one here – a greater imbalance than anywhere else in the country – and the region's main annual festival in October is known as the Coonawarra Cabernet Weekend (including a charity auction of barrels of the previous vintage's top wines).

To be fair, Coonawarra's love affair with Cabernet is partly an historical accident. In its early years, in the 1940s and 1950s, when pioneer Bill Redman was making the legendary wines that would become known as the Woodley Treasure Chest 'Clarets', and David Wynn's Coonawarra



### SIZING UP COONAWARRA

Since signing a trade agreement with the European Community in 1994, Australia has been slowly defining and registering its wine regions. As you might expect, this had led to many boundary disputes between vineyard owners and vignerons but no other boundary dispute has been as heated, as drawn-out, as acrimonious or as costly as the argument over Coonawarra.

The debate originally revolved around the fabled *terra rossa* strip of soil: simply put, the vineyards on it are considered to be better than the vineyards off it, on the blacker, or sandier soils. But history, a booming reputation for its wines, the Australian wine industry's huge expansion over the last few decades and a dash of ego-driven wrangling has seen the debate blossom and grow since 1995 into a bitter, sometimes hurtful dispute mostly revolving around the value of the Coonawarra brand name – in other words, revolving around money.

After five years of procrastination, in 2000 the Geographical Indications Committee of the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation drew an interim boundary that was narrower and shorter than many expected, with significant vineyards such as Petaluma's Sharefarmers and Beringer Blass' Robertson's Well being left out. The miffed vineyard owners took the matter to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, then all the way to the Federal Court, who decided in September last year to redraw the boundary to include most of those originally excluded. Many have commented that the millions of dollars in lawyers' fees could have been much more wisely spent on promoting the region during that time.

It's a sobering thought, because the last ten years have seen the emergence of a number of other wine regions a viticultural stone's throw from Coonawarra – notably Wrattenbully to the north – which have an abundance of strikingly similar *terra rossa* soil and, in many cases, a more reliable climate. The wines produced from early vintages in these regions have many wine-makers excited. It looks like Coonawarra's pre-eminence may be seriously challenged in the not-too-distant future.



Estate cemented his (and the region's) reputation with the equally legendary 1995 'Michael Hermitage', the main red grape was Shiraz.

But when the region was really building its vineyard base during the 1970s and 1980s, as a number of small players started to plant among the patchwork of large company blocks, Cabernet – especially made in the more restrained, medium-bodied, cool-climate style that people then associated with Coonawarra – was far more popular than the richer, warmer-climate Shiraz style that's very much the trend today.

Mostly, though, the success of the region's red wines stems from a combination of relatively cool climate (usually providing a long but sunny growing season) and the distinctive weathered red top





Coonawarra is home to a greater concentration of good-to-great Cabernet producers than any other region




soil over free-draining ancient limestone: the famous strip of *terra rossa*, in which most of the best vineyards are planted.

Crucially, despite the region's undeniable coolness (spring frosts can be a significant problem, and in three of the last ten vintages, some growers have struggled to ripen their grapes fully), it's not as cool as, say, southern Victoria or Tasmania, and most years are warm enough to produce Cabernet with fully ripe, truly satisfying mid-palate concentration.

This fruit ripeness distinguishes Coonawarra Cabernet from the other two great regions: whereas Cabernet from both the Yarra and Margaret River often display smaller, tighter-berry, cassis-like fruit, have noticeable leafy, herbaceous characters, and savoury tannins, Coonawarra Cabernet tends to have more squashy, mulberry-like flavours, sweeter, mintier aromatics, and rounder, more developed tannin structure, while retaining an essential elegance (although in super-ripe vintages such as 1998,

Red riches: Coonawarra's famous *terra rossa* soil (left), which was at the centre of a long-running boundary dispute between local producers

and from some producers, modern Coonawarra Cabernet can be almost rudely plush and hedonistic).

This difference is much more evident than it was, say, 20 years ago, when leaner, more herbal styles of Cabernet were all the rage in Australia. The fruit is being picked riper now, more new oak is being lavished on it, and more emphasis is put on the retention of that ripe fruit flavour in the wine. In other words, while you could still quite feasibly confuse a Yarra or Margaret River Cabernet with a Bordeaux when tasting blind, you'd be unlikely to make the same mistake with a Cabernet from Coonawarra. 

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## THE TASTING

One grape, but two very different styles of wine – this was the theme that emerged during our tasting of Stags Leap and Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon. Despite evident blackcurrant fruit, fine tannins and a linearity often associated with this variety – which is arguably one of the world's finest – the individual *terroir* of both regions shaped the wines into something quite distinct.

On one hand we had Stags Leap; wines renowned for their elegance and charm, which have historically been able to compete with Bordeaux's best. Although winemakers and writers struggle to pinpoint exactly what makes these wines so great – is it the climate or the volcanic soils? – a tasting of some of the region's

finest made it easier to put their appeal into words.

Comparing the most recent vintage from each region, the flight of Stags Leap wines impressed our panel of judges with their reliability and uniformity. Elegant and complex yet restrained with savoury notes, these were generally less fruit driven than their Coonawarra cousins. Blackcurrant, strawberry and cherry fruit were evident on the palate, along with smoky oak and liquorice notes. These are serious wines with individuality, balance and the ability to age.

By comparison, the wines from Coonawarra's 2000 vintage were more mixed. There were a variety of styles on show – from the up-front fruit flavours often associated with Australia, to more restrained and developed examples. The fruit was brighter with some classic eucalyptus notes, high alcohol and more obvious acidity. The fruit was altogether less complex with more oak, and,

rather than exhibiting the elegance associated with Stags Leap, these wines were generally more 'blockbuster' in style. They were, however, very typical, and the best screamed of Coonawarra, with the deep colour and eucalyptus notes belying their *terroir* – the famous red *terra rossa* soils and a relatively cool climate.

Overall, the wines from both Stags Leap and Coonawarra were of a consistently high standard, and offer wine drinkers a different New World expression of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape. For those who prefer something more subtle and elegant, turn to California, but for upfront flavours and fruit, look no further than a classic Coonawarra. **74**

SAMANTHA JONES is Wine Magazine's tastings co-ordinator. These wines are often only available in small quantities. Any ex-cellar \$ prices can almost double once UK taxes etc are added.

## Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 Napa Valley, California

**95 Pine Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'Deep intense colour with a nose of menthol, smoke, pepper and blackcurrants. The palate is rich and powerful with sweet, fine-grained tannins, crisp acidity and explosive fruit. Smoky, tobacco notes, lovely earthy complexity and very good balance. Long, very appealing now but will probably improve.' *BB*  
 'Dark, quite oaky and closed. The palate is syrupy and dark with blackberry fruit and coffee oak. There is length and plummy intensity. It's very tucked up at the moment but has good tannins and is quite elegant. Age 3-10 years.' *CM*  
**£24 @ HOH** **4**

**95 Robert Sinskey RSV Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'A very tarry, resinous palate with sweet blackcurrant fruit and quite smooth tannins. Intense, with rather apparent oak but good length and balance.' *CM*  
 'Deep, young, very pure vivid Cabernet aromas. The fruit is orientated, excellent and still very young. There is really good quality fruit with good depth, nice balance and ripe tannins. This is still a baby but it is a top class wine.' *RB*  
 'Open with blackcurrant and oak on the nose. Full flavoured, powerful, intense and concentrated. Age 3-12 years.' *BB*  
**\$48 ex-cellar; info@robertsinskey.com** **4**

**94 Clos du Val Palisade Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'Deep and youthful with rich, sweet aromas – good Cabernet fruit with a touch of tobacco. Good deep flavours, fine tannins, very young but will improve; it is quite heavily extracted and needs time, but is impressive.' *RB*  
 'Full and sweet with quite ripe fruit, good weight and depth. It slightly lacks structure but has lots of fruit and not too much oak. Age 3-11 years.' *DS*  
**£40 @ MAF** **4**

**92 Chimney Rock Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'Big red berry fruit on the nose with a nice weight of fruit on the palate. Easy and ripe with good depth and length and a hint of alcohol on the finish.' *DS*  
 'Powerful, expressive aromas of leather and cassis with smooth palate and high alcohol. Leathery, but with juicy fruit. Good, if a little hot. Age 2-12 years.' *BB*  
**Contact MKV for details** **4**

**92 Stags' Leap Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'This is a serious, tight wine that will improve with time. Rich plum, cherry, cassis and chocolate flavours, tough tannins, but there is some elegance.' *RJ*  
 'An integrated wine with ripe fruit, balanced oak, soft tannins and balanced alcohol. Age 2-10 years.' *ML*  
**£23.99+ @ B&B, BWC, ROB** **4**

**90 Robert Mondavi Winery Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'Excellent. A smoky appealing nose with a firm palate. The structure is crisp and tight with fine underlying juicy fruit.' *BB*  
 'This is quite traditional California and attractive too, big but with some perfume and less huge than some here. This is all of a piece. Age 0-8 years.' *RJ*  
**£25 @ MAY** **4**

**89 S Anderson Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'Smoky, tobacco nose with iodine notes. The palate is very smooth, rich and ripe with an attractive earthy character. This is a rich, satisfying wine with bags of personality.' *BB*  
 'Intense black fruit with a slightly stewed, toffeed overtone and a hint of farmyard. The palate has very smooth tannins with intense black fruit. There is a slight hole in the middle, but this is approachable, drinking now and has a decent length too. This is one you could quite easily enjoy as it is or cellar for up to 9 years.' *CM*  
**\$30 ex-cellar; contact: +1 707 944 8642 or info@sandersonvineyard.com** **4**

**88 Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'Deep and youthful with sweet, creamy black fruits – good. There is a good depth of flavour and sweet fruit. This is just a beautifully balanced, lovely wine.' *RB*  
 'Cassis and oak on the nose with a generous, accessible palate. This wine is both integrated and balanced. Drink now or age for up to 8 years.' *ML*  
**£24.33 @ TNH** **4**

**87 Silverado Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'Bright immediate, up-front blackcurrant fruit with an appealing palate boasting quite smooth tannins and good bright fruit. Pretty accessible but slightly hot alcohol.' *CM*  
 'Sweet blackcurrant nose with a smooth, ripe and sweet palate with excellent balance. Age 1-7 years.' *BB*  
**\$23.50 ex-cellar; POA @ EVW** **4**

**87 Regusci Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'Toasty oak with rich dark intense berry fruit. This is ultra concentrated but drier on the finish than I had expected. It is also slightly short and very alcoholic.' *RJ*  
 'Dense savoury nose with a cassis core, a leafy palate, good acidity, ripe fruit and a pippy finish. Needs time. Age 1-6 years.' *ML*  
**\$60 ex-cellar; contact: +1 707 254 0403 or info@regusciwinery.com** **4**

**86 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'Smoky, complex nose with a smooth, rich and complex palate that is fresh, crisp and balanced. Good length.' *BB*  
 'This is elegant and dry with good blackberry fruit and some perfume. It is long, complex and layered and really compares to Bordeaux. Drink now or age up to 10 years.' *RJ*  
**£30+ @ WIM** **4**

**85 Hartwell Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**  
 'Very deep, opaque and intense with liquorice and smoky oak. The palate is also intense and youthful, firmly tannic and concentrated with underlying fruit and a lot of oak. This is a big wine to keep; it has a long and complex finish and will be very good. 4-10 years.' *BB*  
**£64.42 @ VYD** **4**

### Who were the tasters?

**Richard Bampfield MW** is a specialist in corporate wine events, **Beverley Blanning MW** is a freelance writer and consultant and **Samantha Jones** is the tastings co-ordinator for Wine Magazine. **Robert Joseph** is publishing editor of Wine Magazine, **Mark Lane** is an International Wine Challenge Super Juror, **Charles Metcalfe** is the associate editor of Wine Magazine and **Derek Smedley MW** is a wine consultant.



## Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 South Australia

**93** Highbank Basket Pressed Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

'Deep and surprisingly evolved with ripe, mature fruitcake aromas and a touch of peapod. The palate is soft, mellow and fully mature with good fruit.' *RB*

'Very minty and bright with a creamy, delicious palate, integrated oak and lovely blackcurrant fruit. This needs time to really show but is lovely with a hint of farmyard. 0-5 years.' *CM*  
£22 @ N&P

**92** Bowen Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

'Dark blackcurrant fruit and a hint of blackberry with a lovely, smooth, slightly treacly palate. Lovely fruit, very harmonious, elegant, good oak and firm tannins. A good wine.' *CM*

'A rich, spicy, deep wine with lots of intense berry fruit. This is good, focused stuff with lovely, deep cassis, some sweetness and oak. Long and balanced. Age 1-8 years.' *RJ*  
£12.99 @ AUC, OZW, TAN



'Coonawarra was less consistent than Stags Leap. The fruit was brighter and more piercing but often obscured by oak. I preferred the good Aussies, but some seemed to be going against the natural inclination of the *terroir* and trying to make over-hefty wines.'

CHARLES METCALFE

**91** Penley Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2000

'Deep, ripe fruit with a lick of liquorice. The berry fruit character overrides the oak. The palate is very smooth, rounded and rather svelte with good, harmonious fruit and soft tannins. Delicious.' *RB*

'Rich, fat, sweet nose with mineral complexity. This is youthful with concentration on the mid-palate, iodine, minerals, oak and lots of fruit at the back. Needs time. Age 1-8 years.' *DS*  
£22.95+ @ L&W

**89** Katnook Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

'Clean, blackcurrant fruit with a lovely easy, elegant palate with very good fruit. This has a terrific length and is very appealing. It's not too complex but there is very pure, slightly minty fruit.' *CM*

'Rich and ripe with good cassis and cherry fruit. This is very immediately appealing. Age 0-5 years.' *RJ*  
£12.99 @ BIB, EVW, NYW, ODD, WTS

**89** Rymill Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

'Smoky, shoe polish aromas with smooth, meaty, earthy, secondary flavours. The fruit is fine, elegant and integrated with balance and length.' *BB*  
'Dense, concentrated and elegant wine with great balance and structure. This will age well. Age 2-10 years.' *ML*  
£9.99 @ PLB

**89** Petaluma Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

'Toasty oak with a restrained, quite tight, tannic, oaky palate. The tannins are firm but the fruit is dense, ripe and generous. This has length and interest.' *CM*

'Plums and black cherries with some background yoghurt character. Good ripe, sweet fruit. Age 2-7 years.' *BB*  
£19.99 @ MWW, NYW, ODD, WIM

**88** Balnaves of Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

'Good intensity with eucalyptus galore. This is good poised stuff with a good length and wild berry fruit.' *RJ*

'Deep nose with intense, inky aromas and a note of violets. Good rich fruit with nicely balanced oak. Age 1-7 years.' *BB*  
£18.95+ @ LIB

**88** Parker Coonawarra Estate Terra Rossa First Growth Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

'Bright berry fruit on the nose with intense fruit on the palate, a creamy feel and very soft, integrated tannins. This is elegant and balanced.' *CM*

'Very sweet and full with weight of fruit, depth and structure. Age 1-8 years.' *DS*  
£28.85 @ C&B

**88** Brands of Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

'Oaky but with a bright clear wine underneath and lovely, minty blackcurrant fruit. The oak is very present at the moment but will fade into the wine.' *CM*  
'Earthy, menthol, complex nose with a mid-weight, elegant palate. Lovely balance and good use of oak. Quite fine. Age 0-4 years.' *BB*

Contact: +61 8 8736 3260 for details

**86** Majella Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

'Deep, inky and young with tight aromas, new oak and fruit background. The palate is intense with ripe, firm tannins and a good length.' *RB*

'Inky, smoky, and intense with blackcurrant fruit, sweet tannins and concentration. Age 1-6 years.' *BB*  
£14+ @ FLA

**83** Wynns Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

'Sweet juicy blackcurrant fruit with good depth. Minerals, iodine and firm but ripe tannins on the palate which boasts a good structure and depth. 0-4 years.' *DS*  
£9.99 @ MWW, ODD



	Drink now
	Keep for 1-3 years
	Keep for 3-5 years
	Long term ageing
	Good value
	Body weight