

## Valentine's Day Gift Guide: The 10 Best Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons For Lovers

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Dining & Drinking



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Valentine's Day is quickly approaching—time to start thinking about wine. If red wine inspires romance, then a decadent Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is sex in a bottle. Imagine a deep purple robe giving way to aromas of sultry dark fruit, opulent spice, and rich earth, all wrapped in a brooding crushed velvet mouth-feel. You are sure to find the perfect wine to ignite an evening of romance in the list below.

**2014 Alpha Omega Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Atlas Peak \$225:** Alluring—bold, rich, and intense, yet elegant and refined, ripe dark fruit, dried herbs, cassis, vanilla, and tobacco for days. Purchase direct from winery.

**2013 Antica Townsend Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley \$110:** Refined—this limited production wine is elegant and sophisticated, offering depth of dark and red fruit, spice, licorice, roasted espresso beans, spun silk on the palate, tastes more than its price. Purchase direct from winery.

**2014 Beringer Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley \$170:** Brooding—opulent yet approachable, inky purple with dark fruit, licorice, baking spice, cedar and dark chocolate covered cherries, crushed velvet mouth-feel. Widely distributed.

**2016 Bevan Cellars Proprietary Red Sugarloaf Mountain Napa Valley \$249.99:** Plush—an incredibly hedonistic wine, pours deep purple with concentrated ripe fruit, dark chocolate, baking spice, fresh tobacco, dried herbs and roses, dazzling. Limited distribution available.

**2014 Chappellet Pritchard Hill Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley \$229:** Powerful—fresh picked dark fruit mingles with savory notes of dried herbs, olive tapenade, and smoke, all with an underpinning minerality, full-bodied and gorgeous. Widely distributed.

**2015 Larkmead Solari Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley \$240:** Elegant—a perfect balance of fresh dark fruit mingles with cassis, dark chocolate, baking spice, dried herbs, fresh tobacco, a kiss of dusty earth, and trailing vanilla; powerful yet silky tannins, beautifully balanced, a true gem. Limited production and distribution; purchase direct from winery.

**2015 Robert Mondavi To Kalon Reserve Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon \$175:** Voluptuous—dark fruit, jammed and fresh, crushed roses, dried herbs, notes of Sacher torte and crème de cassis, toasted cedar, and trailing vanilla; decadently full-bodied, rich and seductive. Well distributed.

**2012 Smith-Madrone Cook's Flat Reserve Napa Valley \$225:** Seductive—dark fruit, highly herbaceous, baking spice, graphite, dark chocolate, and cedar; tension between power and restraint, balanced and layered with beautiful structure; words lack in describing this beautiful wine. Limited production, purchase direct from winery.

**2015 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Cask 23 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley \$295:** Pleasure—brooding inky black/purple with notes of dark fruit, graphite, baking spice, dried herbs, damp underbrush, cassis, roasted espresso beans, and vanilla; fresh and quietly balanced, refined; beautiful. Limited distribution.

**2013 Trinchero Signature Napa Valley \$200:** Intensity—born of a mix of valley floor and mountain fruit, this wine delivers depth of character, layers of dark berries, baking spice, dark chocolate covered espresso beans, dusty earth, graphite, and vanilla; opulent yet refined, restraint and balance are key, with a rich textural mouth-feel. Purchase direct from winery.