

## Cabernet Sauvignon



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**Geography**  
Produced worldwide in almost every wine growing country. Most famous area is Bordeaux.

**Flavour & Character**  
Distinctive blackcurranty flavour with a hint of mint and cedar.

**Body, Dry/Sweet**  
Mellow; ranges from medium bodied to heavier, full bodied Australian examples.

**Viticulture**  
Best in warm climates. If grown in hot conditions, the wine produced has a jammy, stewed flavour.

**Vinification**  
Fermented in stainless steel or oak. Fermentation temperature not critical because of robustness of grape. Matured in old or new oak.

**Varietal/Blend**  
Often blended with Shiraz, Merlot and Cabernet Franc.

**Style**  
Well rounded, high in tannin content and ages admirably.

**Notes**  
King of the "Noble" grapes, famous for its use in Bordeaux Claret.



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## THE DIFFERENT GRAPES USED IN BORDEAUX

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Almost all Bordeaux are blends of several grape varieties, Different which are harvested and vinified separately, then blended to create the desired taste. The type of grape that can be planted in each appellation is strictly controlled by the [A.O.C.](#) law.

Listed below are some of the most common grape varieties used in Bordeaux wines (and remember that you'll find even more in-depth articles on the different grape varieties in our [Experience](#) section):

### FOR RED BORDEAUX

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Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc make up the red grape "trio" of Bordeaux. Petit Verdot and Malbec grape varieties are also used in lesser proportions. As soon as the grapes are harvested, the juice ferments with the grape skins; this gives the wine its color and tannins. After several weeks in vats (or barrels), wines made from different grape varieties are blended. The wine is then aged in vats or oak barrels for months or even years.



It is the subtle blending of different grapes that gives Bordeaux wines their balance, refinement and character. Each variety imparts something unique to the finished wine:

#### **Merlot**

The most widely planted grape variety in Bordeaux. It is especially prominent in Pomerol, Saint-Emilion and Côtes wines. With lower [tannin](#) and acid levels and higher sugar content than Cabernet Sauvignon, it produces smoother and fruitier wines than ones blended predominantly with Cabernet Sauvignon grapes. It exudes aromas of ripe plums and red fruits. (98,800 acres)

#### **Cabernet Sauvignon**

Esteemed by connoisseurs as the noblest of all grapes, it provides tannic backbone, or structure. It is very aromatic in young wines with aromas of blackcurrant and also allows the wine to gain enormous complexity with age. It is especially prominent in Médoc and Graves wines and is distinguished by intense blackcurrant aromas, balanced tannin and medium to high acidity which together yield a complex, elegant, and strong-bodied wine that ages with grace. (61,750 acres)

#### **Cabernet Franc**

The primary blending grape that provides acidity, fragrance and strawberry-like fruit qualities. (32,110 acres)

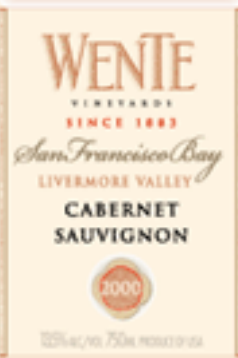
Secondary authorized grape varieties used for blending red wines are Malbec (also known as the Cot or Pressac) for color and body, Petit Verdot for color, tannins and high acidity, and Carmenère for color.

### **WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

If your taste leans towards the soft, plummy style of Merlot, look for wines from Saint-Emilion, Pomerol and Fronsac. If you're a Cabernet Sauvignon fan, try wines from the Médoc and Graves. If you are looking to keep your wine for a few years, Médoc and Graves wines, together with those from the Saint-Emilion and Pomerol vineyards, generally age better than other reds. Wines from the Côtes de Bordeaux, Bordeaux and the Bordeaux Supérieur appellations are better appreciated when young — approximately 2 to 5 years from bottling.

### **GETTING THE MOST FROM RED BORDEAUX**

Bordeaux red wines should ideally be served at 610°-65°F. Given their good balance of alcohol, tannin and

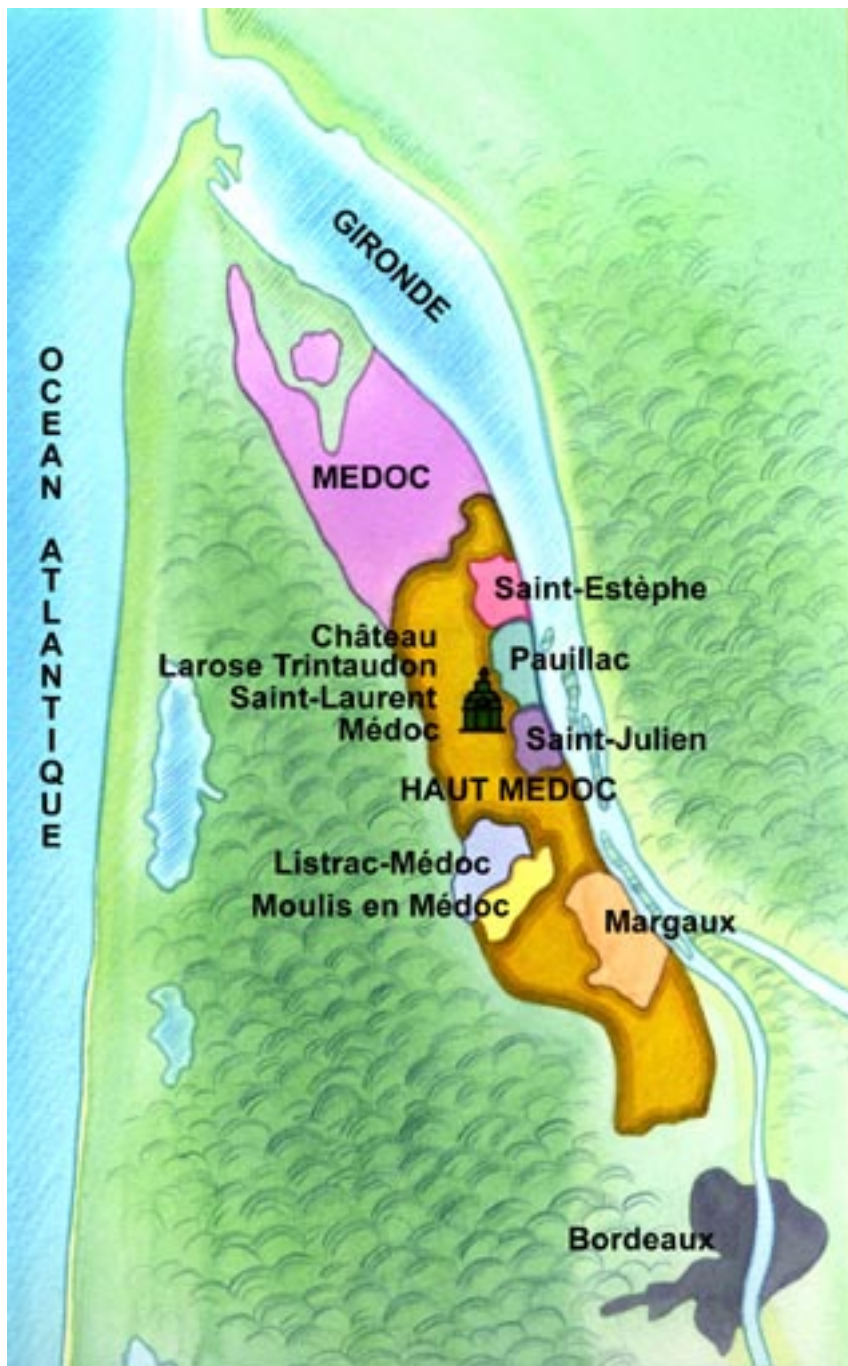


## 2000 Cabernet Sauvignon

The present generation of Livermore Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was developed from vines that California wine pioneer Charles Wetmore brought from France in the 19th century. The Wente family farms approximately 400 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards matched to the soils and mesoclimates with rootstocks and clones selected for each site. The climate of the Livermore Valley is ideal for growing red Bordeaux varieties with its long growing season that develops ripe, round fruit flavors.

|                          |  |                      |              |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Appellation:</b>      | 86% Livermore Valley, San Francisco Bay 14% Paso Robles, California  |                      |              |
| <b>Varietal Content:</b> | 96% Cabernet Sauvignon 4% Cabernet Franc   |                      |              |
| <b>Winemaker:</b>        | Willy Joslin   |                      |              |
| <b>Aging:</b>            | Each vineyard was harvested separately and fermented in upright fermenters. Rack and return was performed twice daily. |                      |              |
| <b>Alcohol:</b>          | 12.6%  | <b>Release Date:</b> | April 2003   |
| <b>pH:</b>               | 3.73   | <b>Total Acid:</b>   | .59 g/100 ml |

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Winery: [Château Larose-Trintaudon](#)

Wine: **Haut-Médoc 2000**

Score: **87**

A silky and refined young red, with currant and berry character, medium body and medium finish. A claret for all. Best after 2004. 83,330 cases made. (JS)

Price: \$15

Country: France

Region: Bordeaux

Issue: Mar 31, 2003

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## 2001 CATENA CABERNET SAUVIGNON



|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Vineyard:     | Uxmal Vineyard, 940m elevation. Domingo Vineyard, 1,100m elevation. Nicasia Vineyard, 1,000m elevation. |
| Varietal:     | 100% Cabernet Sauvignon   |
| Vintage:      | 2001  |
| Harvest Date: | April 4-10, 2001  |
| Fermentation: | Destemmed before a 12 day fermentation and 29 day maceration  |
| Aging:        | 9 months in 87% French Oak, 13% American oak, 43% new oak. Racked twice.                                |
| Alcohol:      | 13.7% vol   |
| Acidity/pH:   | 6.10/3.68   |

### Tasting notes:

The Catena 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon has a dark reddish violet color. The nose presents intense aroma of cassis, red currants with a touch of eucalyptus and tea leaves. The mouthfeel is full yet soft, with concentrated fruit flavors; notes of cedar and tobacco and a long lingering finish. It will improve for the next 5-10 years.

José Galante, Winemaker

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Winery: **Bodega Catena Zapata**

Wine: **Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Catena Agrelo Vineyards 2000**

Score: **88**

Elegant style, with berry, floral and cocoa aromas and flavors on a focused, medium-bodied frame. Nice length on the finish. Drink now through 2004. 15,000 cases made. (JM)

Price: \$23

Country: Argentina

Region: Mendoza

Issue: Dec 31, 2002

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Winery: **Bodega Catena Zapata**

Wine: **Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Alamos 2001**

Score: **86**

Good juicy bramble, black cherry and vanilla flavors, with a gutsy finish. Drink now. 42,900 cases made. (JM)

Price: \$10

Country: Argentina

Region: Mendoza

Issue: Dec 31, 2002

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# MONTES ALPHA



(All aged in French Oak)

Now a legend, MONTES ALPHA Cabernet Sauvignon 1987 was Chile's and our first really PREMIUM wine, the PIONEER that showed the way to all others in Chile and remains the #1 in the Chilean PREMIUM niche which established very early our credibility as a world class premium wine producer. Many have followed but MONTES ALPHA wines continue to lead and frequently obtain distinctions that makes it very hard to challenge this hard-earned position in the mind of wine lovers. With prices of US\$16 to 20 in the USA, all have received TOP SCORING and BEST VALUE from WINE SPECTATOR, quite an achievement for Chilean wines at that price level.

Awards [89-95](#) [96-97](#) [98-99](#) [00-01](#)

## **MONTES ALPHA Cabernet Sauvignon**

One of the top Chilean Cabernets, aged for 12 months in French oak. Intense ruby in color with red fruits evocations of blackcurrant, chocolate and cigar box, in balance with well integrated oak (French Alliers fine grained oak). Of great complexity in the mouth, in mid palate is full bodied and balanced with a lasting persistence and a remarkable finish. Although a superb wine as it is, it may also be considered as a great wine for cellaring. Our first (1987) version was recently selected among the best ten year old red wines (18th) in the world and our 1990 version was ranked 10th in the world, also by WINE magazine (UK).

[Technical Data](#)

## **MONTES ALPHA Chardonnay**

Vinified with clean must separating three different lots using three different strains of selected yeasts: D\47, Montrachet and native. Fermented and aged in French oak for 1 year, 40% of the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation. Grapes sourced from Casablanca Valley. The wine remains in its original cask for one year using a monthly batonage to enhance buttery flavours and complexity which emphasizes the union of refined flavors of tropical fruit and aromas. Full bodied and creamy in the mid palate and very complex. One of the few chilean whites that will improve over the years. The 1998 vintage selected as "WORLD CHAMPION CHARDONNAY" by SLOW FOOD of Italy, after a tasting in 26 cities around the world, monitored live by BBC-TV in London.

[Technical Data](#)

## **MONTES ALPHA Merlot**

Handsome ruby-red color. Outstanding fruit, with a noseful of red berries, black cherry, black pepper, hints of tobacco. These elements come through on the palate, revealing a full-bodied wine. In mid palate is round and velvety with an added touch of vanilla and toast, followed by a long and smooth finish. Very, very elegant. WINE SPECTATOR selected it as both TOP-SCORING Merlots around the world and also one of the Best Values in Merlot.

[Technical Data](#)

## **MONTES ALPHA Syrah**

From our "La Finca" Estate, in the Apalta Valley, the 1999 vintage is our first Syrah and included it in our ALPHA range because we believe its present merits and future potential so recommended. The scarcest of our ALPHA line, it shows how promising the Apalta Valley slopes are. Yield is very low, only 6 tons per hectare. It has been aged in French oak for one year and had only one soft filtering. Aurelio has added 10% of Cabernet Sauvignon, also from Apalta, to the final blend. Of intense ruby red color, it has a great aroma with floral, tobacco and leathery notes. Strong and full bodied to the palate, with soft and mature tannins. A very long, elegant and satisfying after taste. A superb Syrah.

[Technical Data](#)



## MONTES ALPHA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

(1998 was the first M.A.C.S. whose grapes came from our Apalta Estate)

(The first of Chile's Premium Wines)

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Description                     | Deeper in color, the expression of cabernet sauvignon is evident, elegant. There is plenty of fruit so it can easily stay in barrel aging for 1 year, in French oak casks. |
| Denomination of Origin          | Santa Cruz (Colchagua). The grapes come from our now famous La Finca de Apalta Estate, in the Apalta Valley, reputed to be the best for red wines in Chile.                |
| Oak Aging                       | For 12 months in French oak barrels (1/3 new, 1/3 one use, 1/3 two uses).  |
| Filtering                       | One very light filtering.  |
| Yield of Vineyard               | About 7 tons per hectare (about 3-5 tons per acre).  |
| Grape Variety                   | Cabernet Sauvignon 85% + Merlot 15%.   |
| Cellaring Recommendations       | Can be enjoyed now or cellared for 10 years or more. Some vintages have proved very strong at 10 years, capable of several years more.                                     |
| Recommended Serving Temperature | 17° to 18°C.   |
| Decanting                       | Yes, for at least 30 minutes, preferably one hour.   |

**Distinctions:** Many but we are particularly proud that it has twice been selected by the USA Restaurants as their favorite Chilean wine (last time was 2002, according to Wine & Spirits Poll).

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Winery: [Viña Montes](#)

Wine: **Cabernet Sauvignon Santa Cruz Alpha Apalta Vineyard 2001**

Score: **90**

Lovely fruit here--cassis, red currant and blackberry--with supple texture. Yet there's serious grip, with mineral, cocoa and toast notes as well, all framed by firm yet well-integrated tannins. This should develop nicely. Drink now through 2006. 20,150 cases made. (JM)

**Smart Buys**

Price: \$20  
 Country: Chile  
 Region: Rapel  
 Issue: Sep 30, 2003

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Winery: [Viña Montes](#)

Wine: **Cabernet Sauvignon Santa Cruz Alpha Apalta Vineyard 2000**

Score: **89**

Lovely fruit here--red and black cherries, currants and cassis--with brier, vanilla and mineral notes coming in on the chunky finish. Needs a touch more harmony, but the spice and toast notes add complexity. Drink now through 2005. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 16,000 cases made. (JM)

**Smart Buys**

Price: \$22  
 Country: Chile  
 Region: Rapel  
 Issue: Apr 30, 2003

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# ♦ FRANCISCAN OAKVILLE ESTATE ♦

2000 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

The 2000 growing season was relatively cool in Napa Valley, until September when a warm spell gave the ripening process a boost. Then, another cooling trend provided a long stretch of mild weather that allowed the grapes to ripen slowly on the vines until late October. This Cabernet Sauvignon captures the essence of Napa Valley where slow, even ripening gave this wine full richness and tannin maturity. Loaded with rich, ripe, black cherry and plum flavors that are nicely balanced with hints of sweet toasted oak. Small percentages of Cabernet Franc and Merlot are added to enhance the wine's depth and complexity.

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Winemaker:            | Larry Levin  |
| Appearance:           | Ruby red   |
| Aroma:                | Ripe black cherry and plum aromas mingle with toasty oak and a hint of leather.  |
| Flavor:               | In the mouth, ripe black cherry, plum and currant flavors are beautifully in balance with sweet oak carrying through to a long finish. Tannins are supple and round. |
| Varietal Composition: | 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Merlot   |
| Appellation:          | Napa Valley  |
| Oak Aging:            | 17 months  |
| Type of Oak:          | American & French, 25% new   |
| Total Acidity:        | 5.8 g/l  |
| pH                    | 3.64   |
| Alcohol:              | 13.5%  |

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Winery: [Franciscan Oakville Estate](#)

Wine: **Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2000**

Score: **90**

Quite reliant on jazzy oak, but it's also quite rich and concentrated, with appealing currant, black cherry, anise, mineral and leathery notes, finishing with pretty coffee ground notes. Drink now through 2009. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 88,858 cases made. (JL)

Price: \$27

Country: California

Region: Napa

Issue: May 31, 2003

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Winery: [Franciscan Oakville Estate](#)

Wine: **Magnificat Napa Valley 1999**

Score: **87**

Good intensity, balanced toward elegance and finesse, with appealing currant, light oak, tobacco and cedary notes. Comes up shy on depth. Drink now through 2007. 11,990 cases made. (JL)

Price: \$45

Country: California

Region: Napa

Issue: Apr 30, 2003

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Situated in the mountains above Conn Valley and near the base of Howell Mountain, the Buehler Estate vineyards are planted primarily to Cabernet Sauvignon. The juxtaposed topography of steeply sloped hillsides with eastern exposures against very gently sloping hills with southern and southwestern exposures hints at the tumultuous geologic past of the Estate; extensive faulting resulted in at least three distinct soil types. Not surprisingly, grapes grown on the different soils give different characteristics to the finished wines; these differences are often as great as the differences between various Bordeaux varieties and allow us to blend within the variety of Cabernet Sauvignon to craft a truly multi-faceted Estate wine. There is nothing one-dimensional about working with just Cabernet at Buehler!

A cool growing season until the first week of October, the 2000 vintage delivered all of our Estate grapes to the winery before the late-October storms developed. After the primary fermentation and a 2 week extended maceration, the grapes were pressed and the wine was immediately delivered to barrels to initiate the secondary malolactic fermentation. The wine was aged 18 months in barrels: 45% of which were new French oak, and 5% of which were American oak barrels.

The aromas are pure black cherry fruit with accents of cassis. Enticing barrel qualities of cola and spice complement the fruit aromas. On the palate, the wine shows layers of deeply extracted flavors that only mature hillside vineyards can give.

David Cronin  
Winemaker

|      |                          |                            |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2000 | Suggested Retail:        | \$40                       |
|      | Appellation/Designation: | Napa Valley/Estate Bottled |
|      | Varietal Composition:    | 100% Cabernet Sauvignon    |
|      | Brix at Harvest:         | 24.7                       |
|      | TA:                      | 0.59g/100 ml               |
|      | PH:                      | 3.72                       |
|      | Alcohol:                 | 13.9% vol                  |
|      | Cases Produced:          | 1500                       |



## *2000 Napa Valley Estate Zinfandel*

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Winery: [Buehler](#)

Wine: **Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Estate 2000**

Score: **90**

Well-concentrated, with a plush burst of blackberry, blueberry and chocolate flavors. The intensity lingers, along with espresso and cedar from toasty oak as well as fine-grained, firm tannins. Drink now through 2008. 1,500 cases made. (JL)

Price: \$30

Country: California

Region: Napa

Issue: Oct 31, 2003

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Winery: [Buehler](#)

Wine: **Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Estate 1999**

Score: **87**

Dense, with a gritty, earthy, leathery streak that give the spicy currant and berry flavors a dry, bitter, oaky edge. Best to decant or cellar and beware of some chewy tannins. Best from 2004 through 2012. 1,800 cases made. (JL)

Price: \$40

Country: California

Region: Napa

Issue: Apr 30, 2003

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