

Cabernet & Associates

There's no doubt that cabernet sauvignon is one of the great grape varieties. According to many reports, its popularity isn't as great as it used to be, but such are the whims of fashion. The 23 wines in this tasting provide a good cross-section of Australian cabernet styles.



2017 Bleasdale Frank Potts Langhorne Creek Cabernet Blend (69% cabernet sauvignon, 12% malbec, 9% petit verdot, 8% merlot, 2% cabernet franc) The enticing bouquet is packed with red berry and blackcurrant aromas made even more appealing by subtle new oak. The palate is sumptuous and finely structured. It's very enjoyable now, but will cellar well. Outstanding value. (\$35.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.bleasdale.com.au/wine/2017-frank-potts-cabernet-blend>

2014 Yalumba The Menzies Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon An impressive cabernet showing cassis and red berry characteristics. The palate is long, given a silky feel by ultra-fine tannins. The oak handling is spot-on. It drinks well now, but will age beautifully. (\$50.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.nicks.com.au/2014-yalumba-the-menzies-coonawarra-cabernet-sauvignon>

2015 Voyager Estate Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon The dark fruits and blackcurrant aromas are enhanced by positive influences of leafiness and oak. Fresh varietal flavour flows the length of an impressive, finely structured palate. (\$85.00) ★★★★★
https://www.voyagerestate.com.au/component/com_plattform/Itemid%2C327/layout%2Cproductdetails/productId%2C240434/view%2Ccrm/

2015 Bleasdale The Iron Duke Langhorne Creek Cabernet Sauvignon Fresh, powerful blackcurrant aromas show on an intense varietal nose. The palate is classically cabernet, long on the finish and structured for cellaring. (\$69.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.bleasdale.com.au/wine/2015-iron-duke-cabernet-sauvignon>

2017 Aylesbury Estate The Pater Series Ferguson Valley Cabernet Sauvignon This is a fully ripe blackcurrant style with opulent fruit and very fine tannins that linger on the finish. It's a stylish cabernet that will continue to satisfy for several years. (\$45.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.aylesburyestate.com.au/>

2017 Yalumba Sanctum Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon An attractive, perfumed young cabernet with a pleasing touch of oak. It's in the time-honoured regional medium-weight style without overt mintiness, and is a good drink now. (\$26.00) ★★★★★

2016 Terre à Terre Crayères Vineyard Cabernet Franc Red berries and dried herbs are on display in this medium-weight red with fine, persistent tannins. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

2015 Yalumba The Cigar Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon The red berry aromas carry a slight hint of mint, and the palate offers more than adequate fruit backed by fine, firm tannins. (\$25.00) ★★★★★

2017 Jacob's Creek Reserve Limestone Coast Cabernet Sauvignon A true to style red offering blackcurrant aromas with a hint of leaf. There's also impressive flavour intensity for the price. (\$18.00) ★★★★★

2016 Tim Adams Clare Valley Cabernet Malbec This wine has a powerful, fresh cabernet nose offering cassis aromas. The palate is plush, with balanced tannins. (\$26.00) ★★★★★

2018 Clandestine Vineyards #3 Margaret River Cabernet Franc The perfumed raspberry nose is typical of cabernet franc, and it's enhanced by a hint of dried herbs. Although it trails off slightly in flavour, this wine is rewarding drinking now. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2017 Hay Shed Hill Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon There's a lot to like about this classic cabernet, especially the cassis aromas and flavours, the fine tannins and classy oak. It just needs a little more intensity. (\$60.00) ★★★★★

2018 Soumah Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon The nose is ripe but quite leafy, leading into a palate that is fresh, varietal and well balanced. It's almost green, but stays on the ripe side of the line. (\$40.00) ★★★★★

2017 Vinaceous Raconteur Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A fresh, ripe, varietal young red that lacks a little intensity and length but is drinking well. (\$25.00) ★★★☆

2018 Oakridge Vineyard Series Barkala Vineyard Yarra Valley Cabernet Sauvignon A fragrant wine smelling of red fruits with a hint of mint. The fine, delicate palate finishes with obvious acidity. (\$42.00) ★★★☆

2016 Hastwell & Lightfoot Vineyards McLaren Vale Cabernet Sauvignon A fresh red fruits style with adequate weight of fruit. It's regional rather than varietal. (\$25.00) ★★★☆

2018 Aylesbury Estate Waterfall Gully Ferguson Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Ripe dark cherry and blackcurrant aromas and a supple, soft palate. Enjoyable, but short on the finish. (\$23.00) ★★★☆

2019 DiGiorgio Family Coonawarra Cabernet Franc It's definitely a drink-now style, but has much to offer in that context. There's plenty of vibrant raspberry-cherry flavour. (\$25.00) ★★★☆

2016 Angullong Orange Region Cabernet Sauvignon Shows some blackcurrant varietal character and is slightly light, but it's soft and approachable. (\$22.00) ★★★

2016 Vinifera Mudgee Cabernet Sauvignon Red fruits and oak show on the nose. The palate is somewhat hollow, with lingering tannins. (\$30.00) ★★★

2015 Gartelmann Jonathan Mudgee Cabernet Sauvignon Attractive blackcurrant aromas are evident, but firm tannins dominate the finish. (\$35.00) ★★★

2016 Naked Lady Wines Mudgee Cabernet Sauvignon Developed colour and nose. A bit too lean and dry. (\$25.00) ★★★

2016 Robert Stein Mudgee Cabernet Sauvignon Plain and plummy, with a hard finish. (\$25.00) ★★

The ratings in this tasting support our view that Margaret River, Langhorne Creek and the Limestone Coast are the top three cabernet regions in Australia. There's one thing for sure. Cabernet sauvignon, fashionable or not, is still giving us some of our best red wines.

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