92 | Baldacci $40
2013 Napa Valley Fraternity (Best Buy)
As meaty as a grilled sirloin, this wine’s fruit lives between juicy dark cherry and plump black mushroom. It’s a deeply umami wine, with tannins that bring spice-rub scents to a purple robe of ripe grape flavor, lasting in a slow fade. (W&S 10/18; 3,278 cases)

92 | Christophe $55
2015 Rutherford Explorer’s Series Cabernet Sauvignon
Stephanie Putnam makes this wine for Boisset at a biodynamically farmed vineyard on the valley floor. She leaves it on the skins for up to 32 days and lets it rest in French barrels (more than half new) for 20 months. Once the oak reedes, this wine reveals savory notes of eucalyptus, tobacco and mushrooms. Its elegant Rutherford tannins carry a sweet spice, balancing the wine’s freshness. The bright lift in the end would enliven roast lamb or squab stuffed with wild mushrooms. (W&S 6/18; 199 cases)

92 | Flora Springs $125
2015 Napa Valley Out of Sight Cabernet Sauvignon
This estate vineyard is hidden on a northwest-facing hillside off the Silverado Trail, south of Oak Knoll. Farmed under organic, it produced a rich cabernet that delivers a trumpet blast of power. Give it time in a decanter and the wine’s harmony comes into view, with brisk red-currant flavors melding into the darkness of the tannins. It’s a sleek Napa Valley red to age five years or more. (W&S 8/18; 391 cases)

92 | Beaulieu Vineyard $45
2015 Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon (Best Buy)
Here’s a re-fruited cabernet that’s juicy and ripe, buoyed by elegant benchland tannins. Those tannins feel brisk, with rocky mineral edges and softer hints of leather. They gird the flavors, holding them tight, even as a beam of freshness shoots through the middle of the wine, brightening the formal structure. Why pay $200 for a sumo wrestler when you can get this little marathon runner for $45? (W&S 10/18)

92 | Clos du Val $120
2015 Stags Leap District Hirondelle Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon
The vines at Clos du Val’s home vineyard grow in gravely loam soils under the Stags Leap escarpment. They produced a luscious 2015, its purple-plum flavors layered with some green spice in the tannins. The primary layer is oak for now (it aged in French oak barrels, 60 percent new), so give it five years or more in the cellar to fully emerge. (1,100 cases)

92 | Concannon $60
2014 Spring Mountain District Napa Valley Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon
With its plump black-cherry flavor layered over black tannins, this wine contrasts ripe, almost candied fruit with structural tension that holds it tight and keeps it savory. It has a tough, smoky edge along with the woodland scent of madrones. (503 cases)

92 | Byand $75
2015 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
Colin Gordon and Tim Beranek worked together at Kosta Brown and Outpost before starting their own label in 2013. Their cabernet, grown at the Slaughterhouse vineyard, is bursting with crunchy red-plum flavors and bright cherry-blossom scents. Its gentle, anise-scented tannins turn black in the finish, until they begin to mellow with air and allow the fruit fragrance to extend into sleek and generous flavor. (189 cases)

92 | Chalk Hill $70
2015 Chalk Hill Estate Red
A textural beauty right from the moment you open the bottle, this wine takes the contemporary position that Bordeaux varieties can produce delicious and satisfying wines on release. Its juicy black-cherry impression lasts, along with notes of cherry leaves and blossoms.

92 | Faust $90
2015 Coombsville The Pact Cabernet Sauvignon
Reflecting the relative cool of Coombsville, this takes its time to develop from spicy, rooty flavors toward floral notes and an open, more welcoming character. The wine’s generosity comes forward with air, a dynamic play between fine red fruit above and earthy tannins underneath. Accessible now with time in a decanter, this is ready to greet anything off the grill. (900 cases)

92 | Heitz Cellar $250
2013 Napa Valley Martha’s Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon
This is a powerful vintage of Martha’s Vineyard, a huge wine following a graceful line, so it’s neither overwhelming nor oversaturated. It has the structural elasticity of 2013 in its tannins, a salty umami note that highlights the dark currant and green fig flavors. Joe Heitz made the first Martha’s Vineyard cabernet in 1966, from the May family’s 34-acre parcel in western Oakville, with a small-berried selection of cabernet that gives the concentrated fruit for this wine. (W&S 8/18; 2,900 cases)

92 | Jordan $199/1.5L
2012 Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
Rob Davis blends this wine from gravely benchlands in Geyserville, as well as vineyards in the Alexander Valley hills. While the sources have evolved over the years, focusing on soils appropriate to cabernet, his style remains consistent—a light, elegant wine with enough bottle maturity on release to turn the tannins toward silk. This late release in magnum is fragrant with red and black currant flavor, and hints of tobacco. The tannins still hold some sharp edges, but the wine feels harmonious and integrated. Ready for filet mignon. (W&S 10/18)
90 | Bella Union $85
2015 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
This is the newest project from the team at Far Niente, a blend focused on cabernet sauvingon with a small portion of franc and petit verdot. It's made by Megan Melief, formerly the assistant winemaker at Nickel & Nickel. It starts off hiding behind a wall of oak, with black-walnut scents and mineral-inflected tannins. That oak integrates with air, adding richness to the tannins and bringing out a tapenade scent. Substantial, bold and smoky, this is a cabernet for aged beef. (W&S 4/18; 3,700 cases)

90 | Francis Ford Coppola $32
2015 Alexander Valley Director's Cut Cabernet Sauvignon (Best Buy)
Coolness runs through this wine's clean black-plum flavors, delivering a gentle, silklen and satisfying cabernet at a reasonable price. There's a hard-mineral-water feel to the tannins, but it quickly resolves into the plummy richness of the fruit, and it's the fruit that lasts. For a hanger steak.

90 | Hearst Ranch $35
2016 Paso Robles Bunkhouse Cabernet Sauvignon
Jim Saunders, a grape grower in eastern Paso-Robles since 1993, met Steve Hearst at his cattle ranch in San Simeon, and they soon struck up a partnership. Saunders now bottles his Paso fruit under the Hearst Ranch label. Their 2016 cabernet is soft and supple, with an earthy cushion of tannins firming up the juicy cherry and tobacco flavors. It's clean and fresh, a well-grown Paso red. (4,189 cases)

90 | Medlock Ames $95
2015 Alexander Valley Kate's & B's Cabernet Sauvignon
This is a cabernet-focused blend from gravelly clay soils on the Bell Mountain estate, located in the southwestern corner of Alexander Valley, where it meets Knights Valley and Chalk Hill. It's a gentle wine with scents of roses and tobacco leaf; oak adds a refined, pastry-like wrapping to the savory fruit. Accessible and ready to enjoy, this is a wine for roast lamb. (W&S 6/18; 450 cases)

90 | Merus $160
2015 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
This cabernet grows in Coombsville, east of the city of Napa; it ferments as whole berries without added yeasts, then ages in new French oak for 26 months. It's bold and juicy without being overwrought, a meaty red with notes of ramen broth cushioning its dark raspberry flavors. Round enough to enjoy with a steak, the tannins could use more time to mellow. (2,104 cases)

90 | Provenance $55
2015 Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon
The core of this wine is made up of fruit from three sites, including two estate vineyards—Hewitt in the western benchlands of Rutherford, and Wildwood, on the east side of the valley—as well as purchased grapes from Beckstoffer's Georges III. The remainder comes from fruit purchased in Calistoga and Oakville. It's a sumptuous Rutherford wine with lovely textural give to the tannins. The fruit holds its bright plum flavor, adding floral detail as it takes on air. Lean and elegant, this will age with grace. (W&S 10/18)

90 | Raymond $85
2015 Yountville District Collection Cabernet Sauvignon
Warm and rich, this big wine is unapologetic in its full-bodied curve of alcohol and fruit, and equally uninhibited in its oak. It manages to all mesh together, along with hints of green spice and the citrusy notes of toasted oak. Pour it with braised short ribs. (W&S 10/18)

90 | Raymond $55
2014 Napa Valley Signature Collection Cabernet Sauvignon
A sleek cabernet, this wine emphasizes oak richness and supple textures, with a velvet nap. The plump fruit begins to gain detail with air, a honeyed floral fragrance and a lively, appealingly green edge to gird its fullness. This should benefit from a few years in the bottle. (W&S 10/18)

90 | Raymond $95
2015 St. Helena District Collection Cabernet Sauvignon
Oak frames this wine's black fruit and spicy, terse persimmon flavors. Those flavors show their fullness with air, though the oak remains potent, needing bottle age to integrate into the fruit. The elements are there for it to age well. (498 cases)

90 | Robert John Vineyard $90
2010 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
Dark fruited, this cabernet is maturing into its black cherry and chocolate density. The tannins are soft, lasting on scents of tobacco and herbs, making it ready to drink with braised beef. (W&S 8/18; 300 cases)

90 | Roots Run Deep $40
2014 Napa Valley Hypothesis Cabernet Sauvignon (Best Buy)
Mark Albrecht founded Roots Run Deep in 2005, with the