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The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

RATING SYSTEM

Robert Parker's rating system employs a 50-100 point quality scale. It is my belief that the various twenty (20) point rating systems do not provide enough flexibility and often result in compressed and inflated wine ratings. THE WINE ADVOCATE takes a hard, very critical look at wine, since I would prefer to underestimate the wine's quality than to overestimate it. The numerical ratings are utilized only to enhance and complement the thorough tasting notes, which are my primary means of communicating my judgments to you.

96-100	An extraordinary wine of profound and complex character displaying all the attributes expected of a classic wine of its variety. Wines of this caliber are worth a special effort to find, purchase, and consume.
90-95	An outstanding wine of exceptional complexity and character. In short, these are terrific wines.
80-89	A barely above average to very good wine displaying various degrees of finesse and flavor as well as character with no noticeable flaws.
70-79	An average wine with little distinction except that it is soundly made. In essence, a straightforward, innocuous wine.
60-69	A below average wine containing noticeable deficiencies, such as excessive acidity and/or tannin, an absence of flavor, or possibly dirty aromas or flavors.
50-59	A wine deemed to be unacceptable.

ODETTE ESTATE WINERY

2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate Stags Leap Napa Valley 96 Points

2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve Stags Leap Napa Valley 100 Points

The **2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate** (75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc) is a near perfect, glorious example of Napa Cabernet Sauvignon from an absolutely magnificent vintage. The scary thing is that 2013 might be not only as good, but better. The color is dense ruby/purple and the wine shows classic crème de cassis notes along with some floral underpinnings, deep raspberry and a touch on minerality. Good crisp acidity provides focus and uplift through this wine's other exuberant and concentrated component parts. This is a stunner, and a classic Stag's Leap Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink over the next 15 or so years.

The **2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve** (80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot) is off-the-charts, mind-blowing. Absolutely opaque purple color, a stunning nose of lead pencil shavings, spring flowers, blueberry and blackberry liqueur, a full-bodied skyscraper-like textural extravaganza, luxurious ripeness, freshness and fruit. It's a big wine at 15.4% natural alcohol, but you'd never know that if it weren't on the label, as everything is beautifully married in one harmonious, glorious wine. The wine has an almost endless finish of 45-50 seconds that just hints at its ultimate potential. If you have discipline, put it away for 3-4 years and watch it unfold and develop for at least two decades.

This is one of the new, hot, fashionable and much-watched small estates just off the Silverado Trail in Stag's Leap. **My first impressions were exceptional.** Of the two Cabernets, one is the reserve and the other their standard offering.

-Robert Parker, *The Wine Advocate*, October 2014