



2021 Brenda's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, 98 points

Lastly, the flagship 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Brenda's Vineyard comes from a single site in the Stags Leap District and is all varietal. This beauty has classic Stags Leap elegance, with gorgeous red and black fruits, spring flowers, chocolatey spice, tobacco, and cedar pencil. I love its overall balance, it's medium to full-bodied, has fine, polished tannins, and a gorgeous finish. It's not the biggest or richest wine in the lineup, yet it shines for its complexity, nuance, and elegance. I think it's clearly on another level over its cellar mates. I love it even today yet see no reason it shouldn't have 20-25 years of overall longevity.



2021 Diamond Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon, 95 points

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Diamond Mountain District comes from the northwestern region of the valley and is all varietal aged 22 months in 85% new French oak. It's a bigger, richer, structured beauty offering loads of red and black currant fruit intermixed with loamy earth, chocolate, graphite, and lead pencil-like aromas and flavors. This full-bodied effort brings ample mid-palate depth, building, ripe tannins, terrific overall balance, and outstanding length.



2021 Ruppert Coombsville Cabernet Sauvignon, 95 points

Coming from a site in Coombsville and named after winemaker Michael Baldacci's grandfather, the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Ruppert is all varietal raised 22 months in 80% new French oak. This deep purple-hued effort boasts a rocking nose of crème de cassis, chocolatey oak, violets, and graphite. It's a big, rich, powerful Coombsville Cabernet Sauvignon with a great mid-palate, a fleshy, opulent mouthfeel, wonderful purity, and solid underlying tannins that are just about completely covered by the wine's wealth of fruit. It should have two decades of prime drinking.



2021 Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon, 94 points

A Stags Leap release, the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Black Label sports a deep ruby/plum hue as well as ripe aromatics of red and black fruits, savory flowers, leather, and graphite, with beautifully integrated background oak. It's beautifully textured, has medium to full-bodied richness, building yet ripe tannins, and a great finish. It's a wonderfully complete, layered, satisfying Cabernet Sauvignon that's going to evolve gracefully over the coming 15 years or more.

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2021 Stella Knight Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, 92 points

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Stella Knight Vineyard hails from a site in Calistoga and was brought up in 75% new oak. It's another deep ruby/plum-hued effort revealing classy notes of blackcurrant, red plum, savory tobacco, chocolate, and exotic flower-like nuances. Medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated, and balanced, it has firm tannins that will need 2-4 years of bottle age to resolve. Its tannins might just outlive its fruit, but this is still an impressive Cabernet Sauvignon that will have 10-15+ years of longevity.



2021 Proprietary Red Blend, 92 points

The 2021 Proprietary Red Wine is based on 30% Merlot, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Malbec and Petit Verdot, all aged 20 months in French oak. It has a deep ruby/plum hue as well as a spicy, red and black-fruited, chocolatey style that opens up nicely with time in the glass. It's medium to full-bodied, has a soft, supple mouthfeel, beautiful tannins, and a great finish. I underrated this a touch last year, and it's one heck of a satisfying, delicious red to enjoy through 2031.



2021 Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon, 90 points

Darker cherries, leather, chocolate, and spicy wood notes all emerge from the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville, a more charming, mid-weight, elegant Oakville Cabernet to drink over the coming decade.

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*- Jeb Dunnuck
January 2025*

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