



Napa Cabs *Big, Bold and Beautiful!*

Tuesday September 17, 2024
Registration: 6:00 PM, Tasting: 6:30 PM
Faculty Club, Univ. of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto
Member Price: \$125; Guest/Non-Member Price: \$160

For some people, September is Back-to-School month, but for TVC members, this is **Back-to-Wine-Tasting Month!** To kick off our fall events, the Toronto Vintners Club has curated a selection of premium Napa Cabs from Lifford Cellars, the largest consignment agency in Ontario. Our guest speaker will be Chris Madej, accredited sommelier with the Canadian Association of Professional Sommeliers and the Court of Master Sommeliers.

Napa Cabernet Sauvignons epitomize the ethos of the New World winemaking movement. These iconic wines are renowned for their depth, richness and concentration, with pure fruit flavors often featuring notes of blackberry, black current and plum. These flavors are complemented by secondary characteristics such as cedar, tobacco, and leather, often derived from aging in oak barrels. The best examples of Napa Cabernet are well-structured, with firm tannins and balanced acidity, making them not only enjoyable when young but also highly age-worthy. Over time, these wines develop greater complexity, with tertiary flavors of earth, truffle, and spice.

Located in Northern California, the Napa Valley stretches 40 miles from Mount St. Helena at the north end to the San Francisco Bay area. With approximately 40,000 acres of vineyards, the terroir of Napa has a diversity of exposure, climate and soil, and is perfectly suited for Cabernet Sauvignon. In the early morning, fog rolls in from the San Francisco Bay blanketing the valley. This has a cooling effect on the grapes, providing shade and protection from the scorching heat during the summer months, allowing them to reach peak ripeness by harvest time. This climate, coupled with the valley's varied terrain, allows for a wide range of expressions of the grape, from bold and powerful to more restrained and elegant.

The history of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is deeply intertwined with the rise of California wine on the global stage. In the 1970s, Napa Cabs gained international recognition, particularly after the famous 1976 Judgment of Paris, where a Napa Cab beat out several prestigious French wines in a blind tasting. This event cemented Napa Valley's reputation as a world-class wine-producing region, and since then Cabernet Sauvignon has been its signature varietal.

In addition to its flavor profile, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is celebrated for its versatility. It pairs exceptionally well with a wide range of foods, particularly rich meats like steak and lamb, which complement the wine's bold character. Whether enjoyed on its own or with a meal, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon offers a drinking experience that is both luxurious and accessible, making it a favorite among wine enthusiasts worldwide.

The event price includes reception wine, bread, appetizers and, of course, our main wines! Newcomers and those who would like more tutoring are encouraged to sign up for our Newcomers' Table on our registration page. We look forward to seeing you!

REGISTER/ BUY TICKETS online at [Napa Cabs September 17, 2024](#) and pay by e-transfer, credit card (via PayPal) or by cheque. E-transfer & credit card payments must be received within 48 hours of signing up to secure your reservation. Cheques must be received by Tuesday, September 10. You will be sent an automated email confirmation from our online reservation system, Jotform, after submitting your registration. All ticket sales/reservations are final. If you tried to register but did not receive your confirmation, please contact winetastings@torontovintners.org before trying to register again. In order to maximize everyone's tasting experience, we ask that you please refrain from wearing scented products.



Tasting Notes and Information Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

(Prices are as of date of purchase)

2019 Honig Vineyard & Winery \$85

"The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon is a blend of 83.7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5.9% Petit Verdot, 3.9% Merlot, 3.7% Malbec, 1.5% Cabernet Franc and 1.3% Petit Syrah. Deep garnet-purple colored, it opens with classic notes of crème de cassis, baked plums and bay leaves, followed by hints of mocha and tar. Medium to full-bodied, soft, juicy and uncomplicated in the mouth, the fruit is laced with notable oak, and it finishes with a pleasant lift."

Lisa Perotti-Brown, The Wine Advocate

2019 Freemark Abbey Winery \$111

"This bold, ripe but nicely polished wine wraps black cherries, black currants and mint in moderate, fine-grained tannins that will help carry it for several years. Subtle cinnamon, clove and cedar accents keep it interesting on the finish. Best through 2030."

Jim Gordon, Wine Enthusiast

2017 Ramey Wines Cellars \$117

"The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is a tasty red to drink now and over the next handful of years. Super-ripe dark cherry, tobacco, spike, cedar and mocha are nicely dialed up in this mid-weight flashy Napa Valley Cabernet. This is a pretty exuberant wine for Ramey, but it all comes together very well, especially with air, something these wines always benefit from."

Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2017 Barnett Vineyards Spring Mountain District \$136

"The 2017 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the darkest we've made. Big black raspberry jumps from the glass as well as blueberry jam and black pepper. There is a bright chocolate element surrounded by cedar notes. The mouthfeel is rich and lush with a lot more dark fruit as well as cigar box and mocha. The tannins are significant, very big and chalky. While the mountain acidity is firm it is the tannins that dominate. There is a long black raspberry and mocha finish to the wine. This sizeable Cabernet will age amazingly over the next 14-15 years (2033-2034)."

Barnett Vineyards winemaker's notes

2017 Heitz Cellar Lot C-91 Cabernet Sauvignon \$191

"Originally a blend of single vineyards, including 50% of the volume to come out of Martha's Vineyard, the 2017 Lot C-91 is now a home for borderline lots that don't quite make the single-vineyard bottlings. Marked by notes of black cherries, cassis, restrained oak and a hint of dried herbs, this is full-bodied yet streamlined in shape, with a long, softly dusty finish."

Joe Czerwinski, The Wine Advocate

2021 Delicato Black Stallion Estate \$43

2023 American Winery of the Year by Wine Enthusiast.

"The fruit used to craft this full-flavored Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was sourced from mid to upper valley sub-appellations. Superb vineyards are the foundation of this Cabernet's consistency and complexity. Comprising a diverse range of terroirs, these top Napa Valley sub-appellations each lend a range of unique influences, yielding distinctive and dramatically different flavors and structures that have dense, dark berry fruit characteristics and relatively high acidity."

Winemaker's notes

2019 Hess Collection Allomi \$64

"This is an approachable, likable and hearty red, blending mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with Petite Sirah, Malbec, Merlot and Petit Verdot. A spicy rich berry nose leads to plush, soft and toasted notes of oak that will widely appeal."

Virginie Boone, Wine Enthusiast

2016 Burgess Cellars Contadina \$111

"The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Contadina is a blend of purchased fruit from near Ink Grade and Oak Knoll. It's 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, with bits of Petit Verdot and Malbec, aged in just 15% new French oak, with the rest in older wood. There's a hint of bell pepper, a gentle herbaceousness that's entwined among the bright cherries, then it runs deeper into notes of cassis and chocolate. This medium to full-bodied effort is ripe but not overdone, velvety but easy to drink; enjoy it now and over the next decade."

Joe Czerwinski, The Wine Advocate