

2013 California Cabernet Sauvignon
The Cellar Society of San Francisco
February 11, 2017
[/Diane/Indra/Chris/Mignone]
Taverna Pellegrini, Orinda

Pre-Tasting Wines

	Wine Description	Comments	Notes
1	2013 Hess Collection "19 Block Mountain Cuvée" Mount Veeder Red Blend (14.9% alc.)		93 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate: "The 2013 Proprietary Red 19 Block Mountain Cuvée is a blend of 61% Malbec, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Petit Verdot and Syrah, all from the estate on Mt. Veeder. This blend has worked well, exhibiting an opaque purple color, a beautiful nose of incense, camphor, blackberry, licorice and a touch of espresso. It is full-bodied and concentrated, but with supple tannins and a roundness and juiciness-even for a 2013. This should age nicely for at least 10 or more years. As I indicated last year, the Hess Collection winery up on Mt. Veeder is profiting from a complete makeover and producing better and better wines as well as more special cuvées. This was a winery that burst on the scene in the mid-1980s with some terrific wines and then became moribund. That's all changing now, as the recent releases strongly evidence. They have initiated a Small Block Series of wines that are limited production wines, but aimed at showcasing certain grapes and terroirs." (RP) (12/2016) - K&L Wines - \$27.00
2	2013 Montague, Silver Ghost, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (14% alc.)		"Named for the legendary 1909 Rolls-Royce "Silver Ghost," this opulently-styled Napa Cabernet was made from vineyard sources in Rutherford, St. Helena, and Pope Valley." K&L Wines - \$30.00
3	2013 Calcareous Paso Robles Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (15.3% alc.)		"Presents a dark purple hue and emits a heavy bouquet of currants, cocoa and tar from the glass. The Estate Cab displays immense density on the palate, filling the mouth with dark brambleberry fruit, and more earthy notes of rock and mushroom. The extended barrel ageing perfectly integrated round oak tannins into the wine which combine with stunning natural acidity to create a lasting finish." Available at Winery. \$49.00

4	2013 Black Stallion Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (14.5% alc.)		93 points James Suckling: "This is extremely fine and focused with ultra-fine tannins and a beautiful black currant and spearmint undertone. Full and fruity. Yet reserved and interesting. A triumph for the price. Drink or hold." (1/2016) 92 points Wine & Spirits: "The Indelicato family makes this wine at their Napa Valley property, using grapes from Oak Knoll, Rutherford, Atlas Peak and Oakville. It shows the quality of the 2013 vintage in deep, plummy flavors and warm notes of exotic spice. The tannins add umami breadth with scents of black mushrooms and earth. Ready to enjoy with braised lamb." (4/2016) K&L Wines - \$25.00
5	2013 Frank Family Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (14.5% alc.)		"The Wine Advocate - "A beautiful elegance can be found in the 2013 Napa Cabernet Sauvignon, a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot aged 20 months in one-third new French oak. This is a good value for a Napa Cabernet. The color is a healthy dark ruby purple, the wine offers up beautiful blueberry and black raspberry fruit and is suggestive of a high-class Pomerol. The oak is pushed way to the background and the wine is medium to full-bodied with supple tannins and a long finish. Drinkable now, it should continue to evolve gracefully and hopefully even improve over the next 10 to 15 years. " Available on Wine.com \$45.00

The list of the 8 blind tasting wines:

	Wine Description	Bottle #	Group Rank	Points	My Rank	Notes
1	2013 Amapola Creek, Arrowood, Sonoma Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (15.5% alc.)	8	5	109		96 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate: "Arrowood deserves a lot more credit than he often gets for his Cabernet Sauvignons, which are long-lived. Some of the early Château St. Jean Cabernet Sauvignons have stood the test of time, and those made under the Arrowood label, especially his Reserves, are 30+ year wines at the minimum. The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate, which is 94% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Petit Verdot, is brilliant. Notes of graphite, crème de cassis, blueberry and blackberry along with some espresso are all present in this dense, full-bodied wine with great fruit, beautiful and moderately high tannins. There are just under 1,600 cases. This wine ideally needs another 2-3 years of bottle age and should drink well for 25-30 years." (RP) (2/2016) \$60.00 at K&L Wines

2	2013 J. Davies Diamond Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon (14.5% alc.)	6	1	79	<p>91 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate:“ The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon J. Davies exhibits floral and black and red currant notes, background oak and earth, medium to full body, beautiful purity and a harmonious, well-balanced mouthfeel and length. Tannins are well integrated and the wine drinkable now as well as lasting and evolving for another 15 or more years. (RP). (12/2015). 93 points Vinous: "The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon J. Davies is soft, juicy and open-knit, with soft contours, juicy fruit and terrific overall balance. Raspberry jam, spices and wild flowers all flesh out in the glass. The addition of 11% Malbec and 4% Petit Verdot gives the J. Davies an extra kick of mid-palate juiciness and overall intensity. Here, too, the style is ripe and racy to the core, with all the elements in the right place. (AG)" (10/2015). 93 points Wine Spectator: "Combines a dense, intense core of loamy earth, black licorice, anise and savory blackberry with a measure of finesse and charm. Never loses focus or stops being chewy, ending with a long, full finish. (JL)” (11/2016) - K&L Wines - \$90.00</p>
3	2013 Cliff Lede Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignon (14.9 alc.)	5	8	147	<p>93 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate: "One of the best-run and now superstar wineries in all of Napa is Cliff Lede. Starting with their 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap, a beautiful example of this AVA, the wine has a dense ruby/purple color, floral notes intermixed with crème de cassis , graphite and forest floor. It is full bodied, but with the elegance, finesse and lightness of being, despite its intensity. The wood is pushed to the background, and the wine is beautifully pure and long. Drink it over the next 20 years. (RP)" (12/2015) - 92 points Vinous: "The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon is a beautiful wine. Dark sumptuous and deeply expressive, it is full of Stags Leap character. Inky blue and purplish fruit, spice, mocha, licorice and menthol are some of the signatures. This is one of the more polished, accessible 2013s readers will come across, although there is no shortage of intensity. Best of all, the 2013 is a terrific value by Napa Valley standards. In this vintage, the Cabernet has less Merlot in the blend." (AG) (10/2015) - K&L Wines - \$70.000</p>
4	2013 Robert Craig "Affinity" Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (14.8% alc.)	4	7	115	<p>94 points James Suckling: "The blueberry and blackberry aromas are prevailing here with a spearmint and fresh herb undertone. Full body, chewy tannins and slightly austere now, but will be even more flavor and beautiful in a year or two. (JS)" (1/2015) 93 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate: "The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Affinity has an inky purple color that is much more saturated than its two predecessors. This is a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc aged 18 months in 80% new French oak. This is a richer style of wine with much greater density, power and intensity. Opaque to the rim with more tannin, extract and muscle, this is more of a long-term proposition, so I'd suggest giving it 2-4 years of bottle age, and drinking it over the following 20 years." (RP) (12/2015) K&L Wines - \$63.000</p>

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5	2013 Joseph Phelps Napa Valley Cabernet	2	6	111		"The Napa Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon, is a strong effort from Joseph Phelps and possibly could turn out to be one of the best generic Napa bottlings they have made in many a year. There are 23,000 cases of this wine, which is a blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot and the rest Malbec, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, almost all of it coming from their estate vineyards. The wine saw about 45% new oak (55% French, 45% American) and is opaque purple in

	Sauvignon (14.5% alc.)					color, with a classic Cabernet expression of tobacco leaf, blackcurrants, licorice and Christmas fruitcake. It is full-bodied, dense, opulent and concentrated, especially for the introductory Cabernet Sauvignon in the Joseph Phelps stable. No doubt, the fruit coming from 100% estate vineyards has certainly added quality to this offering. This should drink well for up to 20 or more years. (RP 91 Points) (10/2015). 92 Points James Suckling." - K&L Wines - \$60.00
6	2013 Kamen Sonoma Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (14.8% alc.)	3	3	99		"Kamen's 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon is a spectacular Cabernet, dense purple with notes of lead pencil shavings, blackberry, pen ink and cassis followed by a full-bodied, opulent, voluptuously textured wine with sweet tannins, stunning delineation, precision (a characteristic of 2013) and great length and richness. This is a stunner – a fabulous wine and, at this price point, very attractive. It should drink well for 25-30 year. Robert Parker, rated 96 points. Winery: \$100.00 (Elsewhere \$80.00)
7	2013 Hall Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (14.9% alc.)	7	4	104		"The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa, which is 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot, 6% Merlot, and 3% Syrah, shows a dense ruby/purple color, super concentration, chocolate, a touch of oak and a medium to full-bodied impressively concentrated style. It's approachable now, but perhaps will be better in 4-5 years and last 20. Hall has quickly become one of the great superstars in the Napa Valley firmament." (RP) (12/2015) 92 Points Robert Parker. - "Hall's Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley is dark, powerful and succulent. Black cherry, mocha, spice and leather all flesh out in an open-knit, layered Cabernet that captures the essence of the year. Drink this fleshy, inviting Cabernet Sauvignon over the near term, while the fruit remains vibrant. The Napa Valley Cabernet emerges mostly from a site in Pope Valley." (AG) (10/2015) - Available at Wine.com - \$46.00
8	2013 Justin Paso Robles Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (15% alc.)	1	2	95		"This wine is showy on the nose, with lilacs, lavender-laced crème brûlée and dense dried-black-cherry aromas that prove inviting. It is elegantly framed on the palate, with lots of lavender, potpourri, dried thyme and oregano set against the rich, dark-red fruits." 92 Points, Wine Enthusiast. Available at Winery for \$55.00 (now at K&L Wines - \$25.00)

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