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What to Drink Now: More Delicious Napa Valley Reds

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Unique Visitors per Month: 311,970

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Holiday season is in full swing. I've chosen a few of my favorites from the mountain regions of Napa Valley with volcanic rock-filled terrains. The vines are stressed vines, a good thing for wine, and they produce structured, concentrated fruit with firm tannins, intense minerality, and layers of earthy herbal and black fruit flavors that are truly delicious. Here are a few to consider for your holiday pairings, a few sent for editorial consideration.

I was recently introduced to Acumen, a new winery from high atop Atlas Peak led by one of Napa's most respected winemakers, Steve Matthiasson. Originally started by the Acumen team of winemaker Denis Malbec and viticulturists Garrett Buckland and Mattiasson, the trio was drawn to rugged Atlas Peak, purchasing two sites, farming 116 acres of organic vineyards.

Sadly, Malbec passed away in a tragic accident this year. Mattiasson stepped in as the full-time winemaker without relinquishing his work at [Matthiasson Wines](#). The 2012 Food & Wine "Winemaker of the Year" is a farmer at heart. His resume includes Araujo Estate, Dalla Valle, Spottswoode, Duckhorn, and Hall. His goal at Acumen is to showcase the earthiness and structure of the high-elevation wines and highlight the density and strength volcanic soils give the fruit. **Acumen Mountainside Cabernet Sauvignon** melds ripe and dried fruit with woody herbs, crushed stone, and dried tobacco. \$60.

