91 | Raymond
2015 Napa Valley Reserve Selection Cabernet Sauvignon
Recently, during a meeting of young Napa Valley winemakers at Larkmead, the discussion turned to the price of cabernet grapes and how it was becoming increasingly difficult to offer a variably labeled cabernet from Napa Valley at a price that might encourage new wine drinkers to buy it. The least expensive cabernet anyone in the room had on offer was $60. So I was interested to taste this $45 wine and find a fresh, generous, full-on cabernet sauvignon. It grows at Raymond’s organically farmed vineyards in Rutherford and includes some purchased fruit from Calistoga and Coombsville. Yes, it’s a little heady and a tough touch, but there’s plenty of cracked-black-pepper and cardamom spice to dust the fruit in the end. And if the tough tannins yield to a softer, chocolatey note, they still hold their shape, open and ready for grilled pork. (W&S 10/18)

91 | Spring Mountain Vineyard
2014 Spring Mountain District Elivette
This cabernet-based blend emphasizes floral notes of lilac, cool eucalyptus forest scents and lean tannins. Those tannins bring a bitter-chocolate and cola flavor, holding the wine youthfully tight. Built to cellar, this will become more expressive with bottle age. (W&S 10/18)

91 | Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars
2014 Napa Valley S.L.V. Cabernet Sauvignon
The rocky soils at the Stag’s Leap Vineyard produced a 2014 cabernet with fresh cut to its rich black fruit. Oak dominates the wine until air begins to bring out the detail, taking it toward vinous scents, along with notes of cinder and eucalyptus that add to the breezy freshness. For the cellar. (W&S 2/18; 3,000 cases)

91 | Stags’ Leap Winery
2014 Stags Leap District The Leap Cabernet Sauvignon
This is 100 percent cabernet sauvignon from the Stags’ Leap Winery estate, a vineyard at the base of the escarpment. It’s a prime spot in Napa Valley, where cool air from the San Pablo Bay meets the warm, rocky soils, allowing cabernet to grow rich and ripe while still holding onto its freshness. This vintage is long on red fruit, clean and lasting, if strongly marked by the oak in which it aged (50 percent of the barrels were new). Yet there’s plenty of juicy saturation of flavor to live past the oak. For the cellar. (W&S 10/18; 2,400 cases)

91 | True Myth
2015 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon (Best Buy)
The Niven family of Edna Valley’s Paragon Vineyard base True Myth on purchased fruit from growers in Paso Robles for this cabernet. It’s dark and smoky, with some restrained green-pepper notes lending a cool feeling. The toasty oak doesn’t get in the way of the flavors; instead, it adds tannic richness without impeding the direction and elegance of the wine. An impressive cabernet, and a great buy at $24. (W&S 8/18)

90 | Acumen
2014 Napa Valley Peak Edora Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon
Eric Yuan purchased the Attelas Vineyard in 2012, a 32-acre site planted in 1992 by Jan Krupp. He used that property to found his winery on Atlas Peak, then added Edora, an 84-acre vineyard 350 feet above Attelas, in 2014. Both sites are certified organic. Garrett Buckland grows the grapes and Henrik Poulsen makes the wines, including this bright, violet-scented cabernet from Edora. Its purple fruit and petulant mountain-grown tannins will need several years in the bottle to evolve, but there’s a tightly structured cabernet lying in wait, as witnessed by the long, earthy finish. (99 cases)

90 | Addendum
2015 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
This is a tense, black wine with feral, gamey scents. Underneath the tannins, there’s sweet, juicy and generous fruit, but for now the flavor is tied to the extract. Cellar it to let the fruit and structure align. (76 cases)

90 | Beaulieu Vineyard
2014 Rutherford Georges de Latour Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon
This has classic BV style written all over its elegant weight and texture, with no effort toward hyperextraction or excess. It’s a black cabernet with gripping tannins that don’t relent willingly with air. What’s lacking is the lift that more freshness would give, but it may reveal more layers in time as the tannins release the fruit. (W&S 10/18)

90 | Charles B. Mitchell
2015 El Dorado Reserve Goltz Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon
A mountain wine with structure and rustic verve, this cabernet’s fruit brings red tones of rhubarb and pomegranate to brighten the tannins. It ends clean, with refreshing simplicity. (100 cases)