

Wine Spectator

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"Wait and See on 2005 California Cabernet Sauvignon"

By James Laube

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"Most of the 50-plus samples I tried were indeed tasty enough for me to give them projected ranking in the outstanding range (90-94 points on the Wine Spectator 100-point scale). The trio of Bryant Family Vineyard, Hundred Acre The Ark Vineyard and Pahlmeyer were extraordinary and stood out from the rest; I think these wines have the potential to score classic (95 points or more). Another handful of wine – those from Gemstone, Paul Hobbs, Lewis, Cliff Lede, Snowden and TOR – were close to classic in quality, and could move into that range when released as finished wines.

Tor Kenward of Kenward Family Vineyard, which produces wine under the TOR label, says that the 2005 Cabernets also had lower sugar levels at harvest, and therefore lower alcohol levels. It "may be more of a Bordeaux vintage than we have see [in Napa] in a while" he says. That alone should make 2005 a vintage to look forward to after a string of ultra ripe harvests, high alcohol levels and jammy wines."

92-94 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville To-Kalon Clone No.6 2005

"Ripe and plump, with fleshy, concentrated plum, Blackberry and wild berry fruit. The tannins are ripe and firm, with the fruit pushing through on the finish.-J.L."

