

JEB DUNNUCK

Your Completely Independent Guide to Fine Wines



Santa Barbara County: The Classic 2014s

by JEB DUNNUCK | AUGUST 2, 2017

Starting with the 2014 Vintage, this year is characterized by an early bud break and almost no precipitation throughout the year. Like in 2012 and 2013, the warm, early spring resulted in a healthy fruit set and big (sometimes huge) yields. While it was consistently hot through the growing season, there were no heat spikes (as in 2010) meaning growers could achieve terrific phenolic ripeness, even with incredibly large yields. The wines are ripe, voluptuous and sexy, with forward, supple styles imparted by the large yields. They're not the most concentrated wines out there, however, the majority are already accessible and offer loads of pleasure. In short, it's a classic, charming California vintage to drink while you wait on the 2012s and 2013s.

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ADDENDUM:

Napa Valley

95-90: Outstanding - *These wines are outstanding for their type and are worth the extra effort to seek out.*

While from Napa Valley, the Addendum releases fall under the Fess Parker umbrella and are made by Blair Fox. I was only able to taste a single vintage, but these are unquestionably impressive wines.

ADDENDUM

2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON-SYRAH
STAGECOACH VINEYARD
NAPA ATLAS PEAK

Notes of blackberry, plum, licorice, leafy herbs and a kiss of mint emerge from the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah Stagecoach Vineyard. This full-bodied, sweetly fruited, plump and forward blend is 56% Cabernet Sauvignon and 44% Syrah that is aged 28 months in 22% new French oak. Drink it over the coming decade. \$90

91

ADDENDUM

2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON
SKELLENGER LANE
NAPA VALLEY RUTHERFORD

Coming from a famous site in Rutherford, the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Skellenger Lane was brought up in 100% new French oak. It offers a darker, richer, more masculine style with ripe tannin as well as lots of black fruits, scorched earth, licorice and charcoal. Big, burly, rich and concentrated, I love its mid-palate and it will be even better in another few years. \$95

92+

ADDENDUM

2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON
STAGECOACH VINEYARD
NAPA ATLAS PEAK

Aged 28 months in 40% new French oak, the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Stagecoach Vineyard (100% Cabernet Sauvignon) sports a saturated ruby/purple color to go with layered, sexy notes of black raspberries, toasted bread, spice-box and licorice. Rich, full-bodied, unctuous and yet still playing in the forward, charming nature of the 2014 vintage, drink it anytime over the coming 15 years. \$95

93

ADDENDUM

2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON
NAPA VALLEY

The classic 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley (100% Cabernet Sauvignon) comes from two sites in Napa Valley and was aged 28 months in 67% new French oak. This saturated, purple colored Cabernet offers elegant, silky notes of plums, incense, crushed violets and lead pencil. Ripe, sexy, pure and polished, this Cab is a charmer to drink anytime over the coming decade. \$90

91



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