

the drunken cyclist



I have three passions: wine, cycling, travel, family, and math.

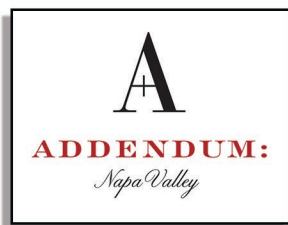


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Continuing to Embrace Napa with Smith-Madrone and Addendum

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Over the past couple of years, I have seen a decided shift in my approach to California wine...



Fess Parker, the star of Daniel Boone, opened his eponymous winery in the Santa Barbara County in the late 1980's. I have visited the winery several times now (and each time tempted to purchase a coonskin cap which I coveted as a child), and this past year, I took part in an online tasting of the winery's newest venture: a stand alone label, Addendum, which focuses on Napa Valley fruit.



2014 Addendum Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley: Retail \$90. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon: 67% Rutherford AVA, 33% Stagecoach Vineyard. Dark red fruit, mocha, rich and opulent, a big Napa Cab, without the big dollars—this wine resembles those that cost two or three times the tariff for this bottle. A bit of tannin on the backend, so this might benefit from a couple of years in the cellar. **Outstanding. 91-93 Points.**



2014 Addendum Cabernet Sauvignon Skellenger Lane, Rutherford: Retail \$95. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. 100% Rutherford AVA. A little hotter than the Napa with blackberry, vanilla, and a shot of espresso, a bit chewier, but also richer—holy cow and Whoa. After some time open, it really impressed with tons of that mystical “Rutherford Dust.” Another wine that could use a bit of time, but really fantastic now. Whoa. **Outstanding. 93-95 Points.**



2014 Addendum Cabernet Sauvignon Stagecoach Vineyard, Atlas Peak: Retail \$95. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Another 100% Cab, this one from the largest contiguous vineyard in Napa Valley. The blackberry is there, but there are also some green notes, however slight, that I always welcome. A bit closed now, but it is still gangbusters. Of the three 100% Cabs, this is the one most clearly in need of cellar time. This could easily take a decade in the cellar. Now? **Outstanding. 90-92 Points.** 5-10 years out? Whoa. **Outstanding Plus potential. 93-96 Points.**



2014 Addendum Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah Blend Stagecoach Vineyard, Atlas Peak: Retail \$80. 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Syrah. An interesting blend that one does not see all that often, but this one certainly works. The blackberry that was evident in the Cabs is still there, but the Syrah lends its characteristic spice. Lots of spice. This wine is also a bit rounder and fuller than its brethren, rendering it a tad more ready to drink right away. **Outstanding. 91-93 Points.**

