

LOS GATOS

MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

GRAPEVINE

BODACIOUS BORDEAUX-STYLE BLENDS

BY LAURA NESS

Who started the proprietary name craze in the California Bordeaux blend space back in the 1980s? Certainly among the first to gain widespread notoriety were Justin Vineyards' Isosceles and Joseph Phelps' Insignia. The trend took root and these wines are still fixtures on wine lists everywhere, 40 years on. Here, though, are a few noteworthy collectibles that might not be on your radar yet, but should definitely be in your cellar.

Photos: Mockingbird Studio



Crocker & Starr

CROCKER & STARR

2014 BRIDESMAID, NAPA VALLEY

Winemaker Pam Starr loves Cabernet Franc. It's so often the bridesmaid to Cabernet Sauvignon in Napa Valley, so she prefers to buck the trend, giving it top billing in this popular blend. The 2014 Bridesmaid is 56% Cabernet Franc, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot, exhibiting a glorious violet-magenta glow on the rim. It practically sings with sweet cedar, blueberry, sage, mulberry, leather and violets, while lovely flavors of raspberry, cranberry and blueberry coulis are entwined with a pleasing note of basil balsamic and tarragon. With its oh-so-heavenly texture of velveteen and raw silk, coupled with its ample wide-whale corduroy tannins, you can't help but throw the bouquet straight into her arms.

14.5% | \$50