

PRIVATE Clubs

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FALL 2010

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Stellar Cabs

For cabernet sauvignons, **2007 was a very good year**, with a bumper crop of grapes. Now that those wines are hitting the market, we flag eight you'll want to uncork at privateclubs.com/stellarcabs.



Stellar Cabs

Uncorking this season's tastiest California cabs

BY MICHAEL KAPLAN

In Northern California, the early harvest and temperate growing season of 2007 produced a bumper crop of world-class cabernet franc, cabernet sauvignon, and shiraz grapes. That is excellent news for any oenophile who has a nose for the rich, big, bold cabernet sauvignon wines that comprise the region's gold standard. Here, eight new 2007 California cabs that we will be savoring this fall. Care to join us?

Melka Wines CJ Cabernet Sauvignon, \$48

What you need to know: Philippe Melka is best known as a winemaker to Napa Valley superstars such as Vineyard 29 and Dana Estates. On their own, Melka and his wife, Cherie, produce this big, fruity, and pleasantly tannic wine. It's full-bodied with a pronounced undertone of currants. Melka describes CJ as "the kind of wine I like to drink." We'll toast to that.

More info: melkawines.com, 707-963-6008