

# Tasting Table.

## 22 Napa Wines That Should Be On Your Radar

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[Drink Beer and Wine](#)



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By [Hayley Hamilton Cogill](#)/Aug. 27, 2023 8:15 am EST

[Napa Valley](#) is arguably the finest wine-growing region in America. According to a recent [2023 Direct-to-Consumer Wine Report](#), the average cost of a bottle of wine from Napa is over \$100, almost double that of a bottle from California's other popular wine regions of Sonoma, Paso Robles, and Santa Barbara.

Sitting between the Mayacamas and the Vaca Mountains ranges in Northern California, Napa Valley is a 30-mile-long region with a range of microclimates, soil types, and elevations. Each of these contributes to the terroir that makes Napa unique. Cabernet sauvignon is the most widely planted variety in Napa. However, some winemakers have found success showcasing lesser-known grapes, particularly ones that can handle the state's continual heat and drought conditions. Today, there are over 400 wineries in the county. You

can visit properties dating back to the mid-1800s to modern operations from edgy, emerging winemakers. We spoke with several of these winemakers and owners, each creating remarkable selections from the valley's premium fruit. These and a dozen others are making worthwhile wines that should be on your radar. Here are 22 Napa Valley wines worth noting.

## Melka Estates Métisse Montbleau Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon



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Bordeaux-born and trained Philippe Melka is one of the region's most celebrated winemakers. He lends his talents as consulting winemaker and head of Atelier Melka to a dozen of Napa's premium producers, including Lail, Brand, and Dana Estates, crafting expressive wines that showcase the vision of his winery partners. All of his client's wines are delicious. However, Melka Estates is the wine that tells his personal story. It was created in partnership with his winemaker wife, Cherie.

From estate fruit growing on the slopes of Glass Mountain, Melka Metisse Montbleau Vineyard cabernet sauvignon is a bold, inky wine with character. The vineyard receives full sunlight throughout the day, creating robust, well-ripened fruit. This fruit produces bold wines with earthy dried tobacco, pencil lead, and black cherry, delicious with braised short ribs.