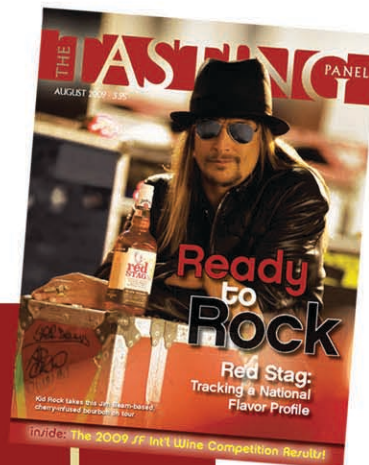


# The Tasting Panel August 2009

Circulation: 27,000  
Impressions: 94,500



Cellar View

# Napa Gold

Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dias Blue looks at  
current **Napa Valley Cabernets**

Forty years ago, when vineyards were being planted all over Napa Valley, growers tried nearly every available grape variety. Among others, there were plantings of French Colombard, Gamay and Gewürztraminer. But slowly, as vintners learned more and more about their terroir, most of these experiments were terminated in favor of the grape that was to make Napa Valley famous throughout the world: Cabernet Sauvignon.

There are so many world-class Cabernets made in Napa now that it is virtually impossible to keep up. Nevertheless, I thought it might be useful to take a look at some current releases to assess the state of Napa Cabernet. This list is by no means comprehensive; it is just a snapshot of some of the best wines currently available. In the interest of including as many wines as possible, my notes have been abbreviated and the Napa Valley appellation omitted from the listings.



**Charles Krug 2006 Yountville (\$27)** Clean, intense and totally charming; shows its Napa origins. **90**