Napa Cabernet 2022: Vintage report and buyer's guide

In 2022, the weather in Napa didn't play ball, resulting in a vintage of extremes. Nonetheless, there are some stunning Cabernet wines waiting to be found.

Jonathan Cristaldi
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Decanter's Napa correspondent, Jonathan Cristaldi. Credit: Alexander Rubin

Exclusive Highlights Magazine: May 2025 Issue Napa 2022 Napa 2022 Vintage Report Tastings Home vintage

A cool growing season followed by an unprecedented harvest-time heatwave and unexpected rain have resulted in an early-drinking vintage of rich, fruit-driven wines, many with immediate appeal.

The variation in quality and ageability across all price points will make careful selection essential for both collectors and enthusiasts.

Our Napa correspondent presents a selection of 28 excellent wines from the more than 600 he tasted, many with very high scores.

To read all coverage of the Napa Cabernet 2022 vintage use the code NAPA22 for a 20% discount off an annual Premium subscription

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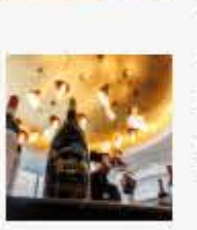

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Cristaldi's Cabernet highlights from the Napa 2022 vintage

Annulus Cellars, Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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A stylish, polished wine – super-suave and expressive, with rich, perfectly weighted fruit and gorgeous, super-fine tannins infused

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Arrow&Branch, Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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A seductively complete wine – compact, tension-filled, vibrant and energetic. Holds immense power and integrity, with pristine

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Harbison Estate, Horseshoe Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Bursting with blackcurrants, toffee spices and brown baking spices, all wrapped in a layer of elegant cedarwood. Medium- to

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Futo Estate, Oakville Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Unfolds with layers of savoury Oakville sagebrush, bay laurel and fresh tobacco. Expressive cocoa-powder tannins add texture, while

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Louis M. Martini, Cabernet Sauvignon, Mt Veeder, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Fresh and bright, with black fruit, sagebrush, violets and tobacco, accented by spearmint and cardamom nuances. Full-bodied and

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Matthiasson, Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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The first 2022 Napa Cabernet I've tasted that avoids the warm, juicy ripeness often associated with the vintage. Instead, it stays true to

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Stony Hill, Côte Rouge Cabernet Sauvignon, Spring Mountain, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Super-lifted redcurrant and black cherry fruit leads the way, wrapped in rich, forested notes that evoke a walk among redwoods

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Bure Family Wines, Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, St Helena, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Delivers utter deliciousness and rip-roaring structure. Super-elegant and balanced, with profoundly rich tannins and purity of

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Cliff Lede, Poetry Cabernet Sauvignon, Stags Leap District, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Unfolds in a perfect arc of flavours, beginning with wet slate, graphite, black cherry and dark cassis, building toward a

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Colgin Cellars, IX Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Pritchard Hill, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Enticing black cherry and blackberry fruit is laced with elegant cedarwood spice. The structure is impressive yet refined, with

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Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, St Helena, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Intriguing aromatics evoke Earl Grey tea laced with vanilla and hints of fresh cedar. The tannins are elongated, firm, and taut with

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Harlan Estate, The Maiden, Oakville, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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A slightly toned-down version of Harlan Estate, with more focused plum and red cherry fruit, alongside saline-velvety tannins that

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Lithology, Alejandro Bulgheroni Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Exceptionally silky and fresh, with sinewy tannins that are both firm and seamlessly integrated. With some air, layers of

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Morlet Family Vineyards, Morlet Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, St Helena, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Super-fragrant, offering blackberry fruit lifted by sweet tobacco, wet-stone minerality, loamy earth and a hint of violets. One of the

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Nickel & Nickel, State Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon, Yountville, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Compact and full-bodied, with intense, chewy tannins that balance muscular power with freshness. Leans toward the dark-fruited

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Pott, Her Majesty's Secret Service Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Full, round and lush. Stylish, polished and incredibly perfumed. Dazzles with aromas of red and black cherry fruit, cherry leather

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Signorello, Padrone, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Remarkable freshness and approachability. Combines richness, power and elegance. Absolutely stunning. The mid-palate is

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Accendo Cellars, Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Immediately charming and approachable, offering early-drinking pleasure. Full-bodied and structured, packed with juicy red and

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Acumen, Peak Cabernet Sauvignon, Atlas Peak, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Delivers both power and elegance. Polished tannins support the medium- to full-bodied framework, making this incredibly

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Ad Vivum, Sleeping Lady Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Yountville, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Incredibly fresh and lifted on the nose, offering bright cherry and blackberry fruit alongside fresh tobacco and dusty cocoa powder.

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AXR, AxR1 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Incredibly delicious upfront, offering an easy-drinking pleasure that's unusual for this wine. Lifted notes of crème de cassis and

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B Cellars, Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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A superb, silky and satiny expression. Bursts from the glass with rich red fruit tones intertwined with black and blue fruit nuances.

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Cathiard Vineyard, Founding Brothers, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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An exceptional wine with a super-compact and incredibly suave tannin structure, displaying velvety, crunchy red-toned fruits laced

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Favia, Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Alluring aromas of crunchy dark berry fruit and savoury sagebrush, underpinned by red dust minerality that layers itself

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Kinsman Eades, Anjea Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Notably floral and expressive, showcasing more structure and freshness than expected, with super-fine, precise tannins that

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Patria, The Monarch Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Utterly delicious, bursting with juicy blackberry and blueberry fruit layered with graham cracker spice, cedarwood and chocolate.

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Robert Mondavi Winery, To Kalon Vineyard The Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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Exudes classic Cabernet character, with blackberry fruit, graphite and a hint of new cedar on the nose. The full-bodied palate is

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Scarecrow, Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford, Napa Valley, California, USA 2022

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This wine simply screams Rutherford, leading with that classic dusty mineral character alongside notes of redcurrant and

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