

# TOP 10 NAPA'S WINES

By Michael Higgins

## Wine Auction Greats!

Each year in June, the tarmac at California's Napa County Airport (APC) fills with private aircraft, Gulfstreams to Bonanzas, there to celebrate one of the wine world's true cause célèbre. The Napa Valley Vintners host the annual Auction Napa Valley, a charity fundraising event that this year we helped them raise more than \$5.7 million dollars for local healthcare, youth and housing non-profit programs. It's also an opportunity for the Napa vintners to show off their best work. Flying Adventures selected the following as the ten best wines we tasted.

### Juslyn Vineyards

#### 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Vineyard Select

This wine exhibits wonderful elegant, almost Pauillac-like notes of cedar, spice box, black currant, and a hint of underbrush. The wine has soft tannins, medium to full body, ripe fruit, but beautiful balance and overall symmetry. This is an elegant but substantial wine to drink over the next 10-15 years. JuslynVineyards.com, 707.299.3930, \$80/bottle.

### Signorello Vineyards

#### 2007 SETA

One of California's most intriguing white Bordeaux-inspired blends is Signorello's 2007 Seta, a combination of 60% Semillon and 40% Sauvignon Blanc. Complex aromas of lemon blossom, orange peel, and honeyed citrus emerge from this medium to full-bodied, dry white. SignorelloVineyards.com, 707.255.5990, \$32/bottle.

### Kuleto Estate

#### 2006 Syrah

This Syrah is a beautiful deep red-purple. It explodes with super-ripe blueberry aromas mixed with those of lilac and smoked meat.

The mouth is incredibly sweet, warm, spicy, and soft – almost liqueur-like. It's a huge Syrah. KuletoEstate.com, 707.963.9750, \$45/bottle.

### Rombauer Vineyards

#### 2007 Carneros Chardonnay

Smooth, rich, and elegant, true to the Rombauer style. Apple, peach, and tropical fruit flavors weave together in a range of flavors that linger on the palate, ending with a long, crisp, fruity aftertaste. The oak tones from both barrel fermentation and aging are nicely melded into the flavor and finish of the wine. Rombauer.com, 800.622.2206, \$32/bottle.

### Staglin Family Vineyards

#### 2005 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

This wine jumps from the glass with an animated nose of flowers, black cherries and ripe plums liberally inflected with aromas of cedar shavings, cigar box, wet river rocks and graphite. StaglinFamily.com, 707.944.0477, \$175/bottle.

### Palmaz Vineyards

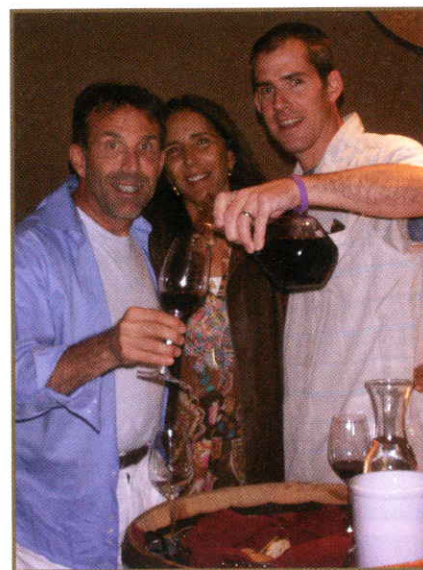
#### 2005 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Cabernet is the soul of Palmaz Vineyards. It is the wine that inspired Julio and Amalia to make Cabernets that may be cellared and savored for many years. This wine is deep, complex, with soft tannins allowing the fruit to enliven. It's ageable, yet approachable now. PalmazVineyards.com, 800.592.2306, \$100/bottle.

### Silver Oak Cellars

#### 2004 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

This wine has a dark ruby color with a purple edge and displays aromas of black plum, soy sauce, chocolate, rose-petals, cedar and black olive. It has a soft, velvety attack and a fruity,



Discovering the amazing Terra Valentine futures of 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon right out of the barrel at the Auction Napa Valley barrel tasting.

floral and spicy mid-palate. The finish is long and smooth with well-integrated tannins. SilverOak.com, 707.944.8808, \$100/bottle.

### Mayacamas Vineyards

#### 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon

In the nose, this Cabernet Sauvignon has notes of red currant, deep swaths of cherry, and a suggestion of sage and bay leaf. In the mouth, more cherries blanket the palate, with the ranch's typical volcano smack of the earth. Black tea and plums lead to a strong finish. Mayacamas.com, 707.224.4030, \$75/bottle.

### Merus

#### 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon

This wine is a dense purple-colored to the rim, with an exquisite nose of charcoal, graphite, and blackberry liqueur. Full-bodied, with great power, richness, and sensational length, this wine will benefit from 4-5 years of bottle-age and last three decades. MerusWines.com, 707.251.5551, \$240/bottle.