

THE
BOARDROOM

Fall / Winter 2018

Longboard 2 NorCal – Young Guns

Argot: Estate Chardonnay 2015

100% Chardonnay - Sonoma Mountain - 100 cases - Parker: 94+

From the steepest, coolest section of Justin Harmon's own vineyard, this Chardonnay block is the most meager producer in the entire portfolio. Full-bodied with stone fruit, citrus notes and a satiny texture, it's a Meursault-inspired wine with intense power and flavour. It spent 20 months in new, French oak and it shows. Try pairing it with meaty fish or shellfish for your New Year's celebration (even the one in 2028!).

Best: 2018-2028

Loring Wine Company: Pinot Noir Keefer Ranch 2015

100% Pinot Noir - Keefer Ranch, Russian River Valley - 500 cases - Wine Enthusiast: 94

We snapped up some of the last Loring cases ever produced from the famed Keefer Ranch, located in the coolest growing region of the lush Russian River Valley in Sonoma County. It saw only 10 months in 15% new oak (a trademark style of Brian Loring's), resulting in a bright Pinot full of both tart and sweet berries, as well as dry cranberry notes and sweet vanilla. There's a lot going on in this delicate Pinot! Save it for spring and serve it with roast chicken or lamb.

Best: Now-2020

Bedrock: Carlisle Zinfandel 2016

100% Zinfandel - Carlisle Vineyard, Russian River Valley - Parker: 95, Wine Spectator: 95

It bodes well when one of your good friends happen to make some of the best Zinfandel around. And so began a synergistic relationship between Morgan Twain-Peterson and Mike Office of Carlisle: They both make vineyard-designate Zins from each other's estate vineyards, and to great acclaim. This Zin is made from vines approaching their 90th birthday located in the Piner-Olivet area of the Russian River Valley, and you'll find notes of both chocolate, graphite, pomegranate and plum.

Best: 2020-2025

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Grgich Hills Estate: Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 4.5% Petit Verdot, 2.5% Cabernet Franc - Yountville, Rutherford and Calistoga vineyards, Napa Valley – Wine Review Online: 97, CellarTracker: 91

This is how they made Napa Cabs way back when ... you know, in the '70ies... When Napa Cabs were still just babies... Since then the region has undergone huge stylistic changes with the ebbs and flows of modern trends and influences. But Grgich Hills have chartered a steady course through the decades, steering more toward Bordeaux than high alcohol. This wine saw a full 21 months in 60% new, French oak, making it age-worthy and just perfect for a grilled steak. And it's biodynamically grown. As reviewer Michael Apstein put it, "All I can say is, Wow!"

Best: 2021 -2025

Scattered Peaks: Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Malbec – Napa Valley Decanter: 97

Vineyard. Mountain. Ocean. You'll find scattered peaks in all of these places frequented by the winemaking duo of Derek Bekham and Joel Aiken. It spent 18 months in 50% new, French oak, and the palate is a classic Napa flavour of dark fruit with espresso, dark chocolate and a touch of vanilla. According to Decanter, it's "rich and concentrated but not heavy thanks to lively acidity. Tannins are mighty; will blossom with time." If you open it now, be sure to decant it!

Best: 2020-2023

Honig: Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc 2015

100% Sauvignon Blanc - Rutherford – CellarTracker: 94

From rows on Honig's own property next to the Napa River, this is an extremely limited-release wine to savour after a good night with friends. With honey and apricot dominating the flavour profile, you'd better find the perfect dessert – if any – to go with this wine. Aged for 8 months in 100% new, French oak; it's a hell of a dessert in a bottle.

Best: Now – 2022