



NAPA VALLEY'S THRILLING 2018S & 2019S, PART I

ANTONIO GALLONI, JANUARY 2021

VINTAGE	NAME	TASTING NOTES	SCORE
2019	Tocai Friulano	The 2019 Tocai Friulano is such a distinctive white. Sauvignon Blanc aromatics add perfume to the more phenolic feel that is typical of Tocai. Pear, green apple, white flowers and almonds are some of the many notes that grace the 2019, a wine that offers lovely depth to match its airy personality.	92
2018	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	The 2019 Sauvignon Blanc Lillie is a very pretty and distinctive white. Tangerine oil, mint, white flowers and light tropical accents give the 2019 an unusual but distinctly exotic flair. The 2019 has enough freshness to drink well as an aperitif, while its mid-palate texture will make it a fine choice at the dinner table.	92
2018	Firebelle	The 2018 Firebelle (Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon) is gracious and beautifully lifted in the glass. Crushed red berry fruit, spice, cedar and tobacco are all laced together in this attractive, mid-weight red. This is an unusually elegant, restrained style for Calistoga, where the wines are often bigger. Savory Cabernet aromatics and the bright acids of 2018 linger.	93
2018	Cabernet Sauvignon	The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is a fabulous introduction to the Larkmead Cabernets. It offers lovely mid-palate pliancy to match its mid-weight structure. Transparent and wonderfully nuanced, the 2018 has so much to offer. Sweet red cherry, red plum, cinnamon, mocha and cedar linger on the soft, open-knit finish. For the money, the Napa Valley Cabernet is the hidden gem in this range.	93
2018	LMV Salon	The 2018 LMV Salon, Larkmead's Cabernet Franc/Cabernet Sauvignon blend, is terrific. Black cherry, mocha, spice, new leather, licorice and lavender infuse the 2018 with striking depth and character while remaining very much in the style of the year at Larkmead. Bright acids perk things up nicely. This is such a pretty wine.	93
2018	Dr. Olmo	The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Dr. Olmo has really come together nicely over the last year. A dark, brooding wine, the Dr. Olmo is imbued with so much character. Black cherry, plum, scorched earth, leather and game reveal a wine of considerable nuance and complexity. There is so much going on here. The 2018 finishes with notable substance and feeling of sheer pedigree that is impossible to miss.	95
2018	Solari	The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Solari is laced with the essence of wild cherry, tobacco, licorice and a whole range of earthy, savory notes. Dark and inward, but medium in body, the 2018 is a bit tightly wound today. I would give it a few years to soften. Like all the 2018s at Larkmead, the Solari is a wine of transparency and nuance. Its resonance is more implied than overtly stated.	94
2018	The Lark	The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon The Lark stands out in this range for its breadth and pure power. Rich, ample and resonant, the 2018 possesses impressive depth. Black cherry, plum, mocha, licorice, cloves and dark raspberry all flesh out with a bit of coaxing. There is plenty of structure, but there is more than enough fruit to balance things out nicely. The Lark is the biggest and most overt of the Cabernets. Hints of scorched earth, licorice, cedar and tobacco infuse the potent finish with striking complexity.	95



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VINTAGE	NAME	TASTING NOTES	SCORE
2019	Firebelle	The 2019 Firebelle is bright, savory and intensely aromatic. Sweet red berry fruit, dried herbs, spice, mint, licorice and cedar are all beautifully lifted. Delicate and understated, the 2019 is all class. More than anything else, I admire its brightness and overall energy.	(91-93)
2019	Cabernet Sauvignon	The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is vivid in the glass, with striking aromatics, beautifully sculpted fruit and impeccable balance. All the elements simply fall into place, wrapped by an embrace of firm, yet ripe tannins. I can't wait to see how the 2019 develops over the coming year. There is so much potential here.	(92-95)
2019	LMV Salon	The 2019 LMV Salon is a dark, powerful wine, yet it retains a super-classic sense of structure. Bright acids and vibrant tannins give the 2019 a real sense of energy that carries through to the finish. Black cherry, smoke, licorice, gravel and incense add striking aromatic top notes. This is such a pretty and deeply expressive wine.	(92-94)
2019	Dr. Olmo	The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Dr. Olmo is a wine of tremendous power and breadth. Black cherry, game, smoke, gravel, licorice and incense add to a feeling of gravitas as this virile, imposing Cabernet shows off its personality. A Cabernet of real substance, the Dr. Olmo is shaping up to be a real gem in this range from Larkmead.	(94-96)
2019	Solari	The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Solari is dense and packed to the core. Based on this tasting, I expect the 2019 will need a number of years to unwind as it is very much folded in on itself today. It is one of the most concentrated, potent wines in this range.	(94-96)
2019	The Lark	The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon The Lark brings together all the elements that make the Larkmead wines so compelling. Bright and aromatic, with superb depth, the 2019 has so much going on. Lifted floral overtones and sweet red fruit, spice and licorice all open in the glass. The Lark can be a potent Cabernet, but in 2019 it is especially refined.	(95-97)