



Cabernet Franc

Press Highlights

2022

- 94, GOLD MEDAL – CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR WINE COMPETITION, *April 2025*

2021

- 92 – TASTING PANEL, *April 2025*

“With Chinon-like notes of Provençal herbs, dark cherry, and jasmine in a delicate, seamless frame, this also overdelivers for the price.”

- 91, Silver Medal – CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR WINE COMPETITION, *2024*

2014

- Best Buy – WINE ENTHUSIAST, *June 2016*

“Heavy oak flavors and a massive mouthfeel make this wine a little intimidating for the uninitiated, but those who enjoy spicy oak flavors like vanilla and nutmeg as well as the smoky overtones that come from toasted oak – will enjoy it. Thick layers of drying tannins almost overwhelm the palate, but then the ripe fruit kicks back in to keep it controlled.”

2013

- Best Buy – WINE ENTHUSIAST, *Aug. 1, 2015*

“A strong vein of oak smoke and brown sugar runs from the aroma to the finish in this full-bodied, extroverted wine. The flavors resemble ripe blackberry, cocoa and sweet coffee, while the tannins give it a nip of astringency that will be great with big juicy servings of meat.”

- Silver – CALAVERAS COUNTY WINE COMPETITION, *May 2015*

- WASHINGTON POST, *Feb. 21, 2015*

“Ironstone has a solid reputation for producing good-quality, inexpensive wines that can always be relied on. The 2013 cabernet franc has some of that wonderful, smoky leather character I call “Grandpop’s library,” a hallmark of the finest cab franc from the Loire Valley. It would be difficult to mistake this wine as French, though; its fleshy ripeness is decidedly New World. A beautiful wine for the price.”

2011

- Gold Medal – SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL WINE COMPETITION, *Jul. 2014*

- Best Buy – WINE ENTHUSIAST, *Nov. 2014*

“Cabernet Franc is a regular part of the red blends made in St.-Emillion in Bordeaux. This gem from the rich farmlands of Lodi has vivid ripe plum and cherry aromas, and flavors tempered by traces of spice and mineral. With medium body and a firmly tannic texture, it achieves classic status.”