

Decanter®

BEST

10 top-rated Cabernet Francs from around the world worth seeking out

Outside of the Loire, Cabernet Franc often gets overlooked for the 'other' Cabernet, but this light, fresh and juicy grape is proving its versatility in top-rated wines spanning Argentina, Italy, USA and South Africa....



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Antinori, Matarocchio, Toscana, Tuscany, Italy, 2015

Both the bud burst and flowering were early as compared with the preceding year. The summer season initially saw an important rise in temperature, which was then rebalanced during the second half of the month of August. The harvest took place during the final ten days of September, relatively early....

Points 97

Le Macchiole, Paleo, Bolgheri Superiore, Tuscany, 2016

Paleo in its secretive pre-release stage. The pure red fruit hidden away in the depths of the wine hints at the elegant complexity of which Cabernet Franc (100%) is capable in Bolgheri. Soft and round with great volume on the palate and an infinite finish. A long-distance runner.

Points 96



Ramiiisol, Cabernet Franc Riserva, Monticello, 2014

Made like the Classico (wild-yeast fermented, aged in large older oak vessels, unfiltered and unfiltered) but deeper, richer and weightier and with no overstatement. Poised, resonant, with pepper and blackberry fruit and very silky tannins. Precise and long, complex and tight. Fruit from portions of the estate's two best-performing blocks,...

Points 96



Raats, MR de Compostella, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 2017

Quite classic on the nose and palate, this is still a vibrant, youthful wine with much more to give. Weighty and concentrated on the palate, with vibrant dark-fruit notes. Fresh acidity, well-integrated oak and fine tannic structure; this will age very well. Refined and complex.



Points 95



Favia, Cerro Sur, Napa Valley, California, USA, 2015

In a vintage when many wineries produced overripe or baked wines, this has a wonderfully fresh, fragrant, and lively nose, with cherry and blackberry aromas. The attack is fresh too, with ample concentration and flesh, and no excessive extraction. There are firm tannins to give structure, but it's well balanced,...

Points 95



Rutini, Cabernet Franc, Uco Valley, Gualtallary, 2016

Seductive, classy and elegantly perfumed with notes of blackberries, coffee beans, chocolate and sweet spices. Fine grained texture, wonderfully complex.

Points 95



Smith Madrone, Cook's Flat Reserve, Napa Valley, Spring Mountain 2013

Only 194 cases of this Cabernet Franc-dominant blend were made. Black cherries, tobacco and herbs dominate the tantalising aromas, which spill out of the glass. Generous and open, it's not as floral or dense as the 2016 and shows a kind of savoury, briary style. Unlike the Estate Cabernet, it's...

Points 94

Couly-Dutheil, Clos de L'Echo, Chinon, Loire, France, 2016

Attractive and youthful, with a smoky dark fruit core. All about elegance, freshness, textbook pencil lead, a fine grip of tannin and great freshness.

Points 94



Domaine de la Butte, Mi-Pente, Bourgueil, Loire, 2017

A wine with plenty of concentration thanks to yields of around 15hl/ha, this displays fresh hedgerow fruit scents with some intense violet, chocolate and damp earth notes. The palate features a stony, mineral background and demonstrates great balance - an elegant canvas for the fruit. Terroir in action.

Points	94
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Doña Paula, 1350, Uco Valley, Gualtallary, Mendoza, 2017

Cool and fresh in character: there is plenty of drive as well as complexity here. Spice notes on the palate among ripe, dark-fruit flavours and very well-integrated oak, with fine tannins. Finishes with a lovely freshness of spice and a hint of mint.



Points 93



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