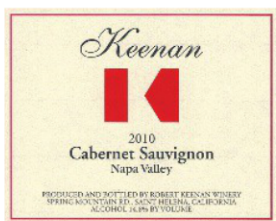
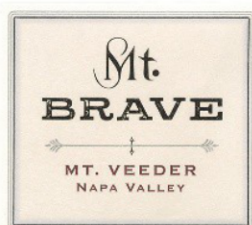


YEAR'S BEST US CABERNET & BLENDS

nins have the blackness of creosote, lending the wine power and density without feeling aggressive. Decant it to take on the char of grilled lamb chops. (4,340 cases) *La Jota Vineyard Co., Oakville, CA*



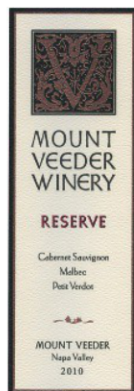
92 | Keenan \$50
2010 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Tarry and austere on the surface, this is packed with purple berry fruit and purple plum richness. Dusty tannins keep the fruit's generosity in check, finishing tight and coal-black. Built to cellar, this wine will develop complexity with age. (W&S 6/14; 2,270 cases) *Robert Keenan Winery, St. Helena, CA*



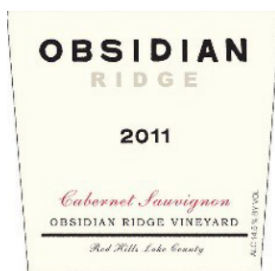
92 | Mt. Brave \$75
2011 Mt. Veeder Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Chris Carpenter makes this wine at a Jackson family vineyard above the fog line in northern Mt. Veeder, a remote spot that was one of Jess Jackson's favorite places in his stable of mountain sites. The vineyard produced a delicious 2011 cabernet, a cool, black wine that shows none of the damp challenges of the vintage. Scents of anise meet crunchy dark red fruit in a lush and approachable wine, its tannins forming fine layers of chocolate in the spaces between the fruit. It's approachable now and suited to several years of cellaring. (4,533 cases) *Mt. Brave, Oakville, CA*

92 | Nickel & Nickel \$100
2010 Oakville Napa Valley John C. Sulzenger Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon This 30-acre vineyard is planted entirely to cabernet, located behind the Nickel & Nickel winery and stretching from Highway 29 east to the Napa River. It produced a sleek

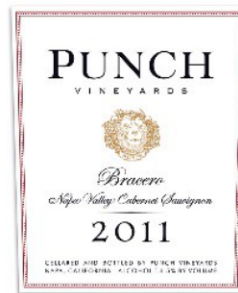
2010, chocolate rich in its tannins, refreshing and cool in its red fruit. Solidly built, this is transparent enough in its flavors to frame the earthy notes of the tannins in a long, classically proportioned cabernet. (W&S 6/14; 2,486 cases) *Nickel & Nickel Winery, Oakville, CA*



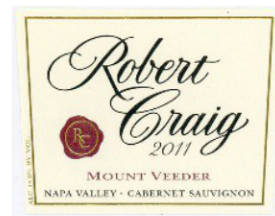
92 | Mount Veeder \$80
2010 Mt. Veeder Napa Valley Reserve A powerful mountain wine (96 percent cabernet sauvignon), this has the wild blueberry and conifer forest scents of fruit grown on Mt. Veeder. It's fully ripe without excess, leaving room for the tannins to show their soil inflection, a black glint of minerality that focuses the wine's plump fruit. Suited to several years of aging, this is built for grilled lamb. (W&S 8/14; 421 cases) *Mount Veeder Winery, Oakville, CA*



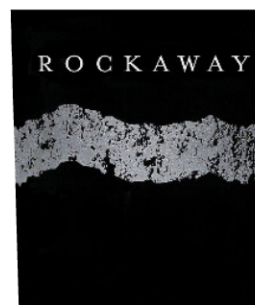
92 | Obsidian Ridge \$29
2011 Red Hills Lake County Obsidian Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon From a vineyard planted at 2,600 feet on the volcanic slopes above Clear Lake, this is a sophisticated cabernet, the fruit as deep and dark as blackberry juice, rich yet clean and spicy, laced with mountain aromas of pine straw and dry brush. Firm and almost formidable in structure, it opens into savory layers, lengthened by refreshing acidity. *Obsidian Ridge, Sonoma, CA*



92 | Punch Vineyards \$120
2011 Napa Valley Bracero Cabernet Sauvignon Lee Nordlund based this label on vineyards his friends farm in Napa Valley. This one comes from vineyards on Diamond and Spring mountains, a blend of cabernet sauvignon (90 percent) with franc, merlot and petit verdot. Winemaker Miguel Caratachea, working with Steve Ligier, produced an elegant and graceful 2011, a light wine that feels complete and lasts on a clean, floral note of fruit. (225 cases) *Punch Vineyards, Napa, CA*



92 | Robert Craig \$70
2011 Mt. Veeder Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Focused on sweet fruit, with scents of bee pollen and green fig, this is a floral, woody cabernet that lasts on its tannins. Give it time to open and the formidable structure begins to show, the tannins filling out the middle of the wine and adding a deeper spice. Tight and youthful, this should develop well. (W&S 10/14; 1,002 cases) *Robert Craig Winery, Angwin, CA*



92 | Rodney Strong \$75
2010 Alexander Valley Rockaway Cabernet Sauvignon In the hills overlooking the