

**NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 WINE SPECTATOR  
GRAPE BEGINNINGS RECAP**



*MAKE SURE TO LOOK FOR THE CATENA MALBEC AD*

**BEST BUY**

**CATENA MALBEC RATED 91**

**KERMITS AUDIO CUVÉE**

***1999 CALIFORNIA CABERNET HAS AGED WELL IN ITS FIRST DECADE***

**ALTAMURA TOP RATED 1999 CABERNET - 95 POINTS**

Aging beautifully, with years to go. Pure, rich and concentrated, with a mix of youthful plum, currant, black berry, black licorice, spice and toasty, mocha-laced oak. Full-bodied, focused and well-balanced, ending with a long, layered mix of ripe fruit. 1999 California Cabernet blind retrospective (2009). Drink now through 2014. 3,000 cases made. —*JL*

**JAMES LAUBE'S RECOMMENDED CALIFORNIA CABERNETS**

**LEWIS HILLSTONE CABERNET 2006 RATED 95**

A seductive style shaped by creamy vanilla-tinged oak, this is complex, full-bodied and intense, without being heavy or tannic. Offers pure, ripe Cabernet fruit that's centered on currant, blackberry and black cherry. Ends with ripe, chewy tannins that linger. Best from 2010 through 2016. 260 cases made. —*JL*

**LEWIS RESERVE 2006 RATED 95**

Pure, rich and focused on a beam of ripe plum, cherry and currant, with touches of anise and cedar. Deliciously complex, deep and persistent, ending with ripples of rich, creamy flavors. Drink now through 2015. 2,000 cases made. —*JL*

**LEWIS CUVÉE L 2005 RATED 95**

Tightly wound, intense and vibrant, with great detail to the dried currant, mineral, sage and cedary oak flavors, this full-bodied Cabernet is pure and focused, if a bit closed and restrained. The finish reveals all sorts of detailed flavors that are long and persistent. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2017. 150 cases made. –*JL*

**CAYMUS SPECIAL 2006 RATED 94**

Complex, riveting aromas of spice, cola and sassafras join wild berry, spice, black cherry and sage notes in this full-bodied, intensely flavored, tightly focused and very persistent display of fruit that's long and lingering. Drink now through 2017. 11,900 cases made. –*JL*

**WINERIES TO WATCH - FIVE RISING STARS IN NAPA VALLEY**  
**CADE A LEADER IN GREEN DESIGN**

**RECOMMENDED WINES FROM ALSACE**

**OSTERTAG RIESLING MUENCHBERG 2007 RATED 94**

Curry and cardamom spice notes lace ripe apple, pastry, candied orange peel, pineapple and smoke flavors in this well-defined white. Though streamlined, this has good underlying musculature and intense acidity. Should age beautifully and show even more in future years. Drink now through 2025. 666 cases made. –*AN*

**OSTERTAG RIESLING HEISSENBERG 2007 RATED 94**

This dry, creamy Riesling displays spiced flavors of grapefruit sorbet, lychee, honeysuckle and fresh squeezed orange juice. There's an underlying energy, in part from the nervy acidity, but this is so seamless you don't even notice the intensity at first. Delicious, with a lingering, mineral-tinged finish. Drink now through 2025. 333 cases made. –*AN*

**BUYING GUIDE**

CANTENA CABERNET RATED 89  
CANTENA MALBEC ARGENTINO RATED 93  
CANTENA ZAPATA 2006 RATED 95  
CAYMUS NAPA CABERNET 2007 RATED 92  
NEYERS CABERNET AME RATED 92  
NEYERS CABERNET 2006 RATED 90  
PAUL HOBBS CHARDONNAY WALKER STATION RATED 93  
PAUL HOBBS RITCHIE RATED 92  
PAUL HOBBS ULISES VALDEZ RATED 92  
PAUL HOBBS CUVÉE AUGUSTINA RATED 91