



Tasting Notes of Selected Older Vintages by Robert Bath M.S.

1979 Cabernet Sauvignon (Old Label)

Appellation: Napa Valley, Spring Mountain District

Varietal: Cabernet Sauvignon

Aging: 22 Months in French Oak

Winemaker Notes

Opaque red with some browning on the rim. Ripe dark cherry and plum on the nose accented by a bouquet of dark tea, green herbs, tobacco, earth and cedar. Medium full bodied, developed dark cherry and plum flavors. A fully mature wine that's very complex.

The 1979 Vintage

A perfect growing season was cut short by early fall showers. Harvest began early; yielding clean, crisp fruit that produced structured wines worthy of aging.

1985 Cabernet Sauvignon (Old Label)

Appellation: Napa Valley, Spring Mountain District

Vineyard: Spottswoode 27%, Wildwood 28%, Martha's 22%, Spring Mountain Vineyard
Spottswoode 23%

Varietal: Cabernet Sauvignon 77%, Merlot 15%, Cabernet Franc 8%

Aging: 22 Months

Winemaker Notes

Opaque, reddish black in color, surprisingly young looking in appearance. The nose shows distinct blackberry and cassis character with slight amounts of mineral, game and mint. Medium bodied on the palate with concentrated dark blackberry and dark cherry flavors accented by some distinct tannin. A wine that is great now but still developing.

The 1985 Vintage

Revered as one of the best vintages of the decade, the wines reflect the ideal growing conditions. This vintage is a great example of full physiological maturity.



1987 Cabernet Sauvignon (Old Label)

Appellation: Napa Valley, Spring Mountain District
Vineyard: Miravalle 100%
Varietal: Cabernet Sauvignon 94%, Cabernet Franc 6%
Aging: 22 Months

Winemaker Notes

Very dark ruby with black highlights and a youthful reddish rim. Ripe, dark cherry and blackberry aromas combined with notes of game, mineral, tar and dark chocolate. Medium full bodied, concentrated flavors of blackberry, cassis and plum on the palate with some tannin still evident. A wine that has developed beautifully.

The 1987 Vintage

A moderately long, yet cool growing season produced concentrated, well-balanced fruit. The wines have great structure and intensity.

1993 Cabernet Sauvignon, Chateau Chevalier Cuvée

Appellation: Napa Valley, Spring Mountain District
Vineyard: Chevalier 100%
Varietal: Cabernet Sauvignon 100%
Aging: 22 Months in New French Oak

Winemaker Notes

Very dark ruby. Medium ripe, concentrated blackberry and dark plum aromas with a touch of anise and minerals. Medium full bodied on the palate with ripe, rich, concentrated dark plum flavors and a long finish. Usually combined together, the Chateau Chevalier property is the star of the four vineyard properties that were vinified and bottled separately in 1993.

The 1993 Vintage

Cool and rainy conditions during flowering resulted in lower than expected yields. The smaller crop and the heat spells of August and September produced fruit with intense flavor and wines of full physiological maturity.



1994 Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation: Napa Valley, Spring Mountain District
Vineyard: Chevalier 69%, Miravalle 31%
Varietal: Cabernet Sauvignon 93%, Merlot 3%, Cabernet Franc 4%
Aging: 22 Months in New French Oak

Winemaker Notes

Very dark ruby. Medium intense, blackberry and dark cherry aromas with a distinct mineral edge, very Bordeaux-like. Balanced, developed dark cherry flavors with a rich mid palate and some tannin in the finish. This wine is youthful and slightly subdued, yet complex at the same time.

The 1994 Vintage

An overall cool growing season and slightly lower grape yields produced fruit of great intensity. The wines are fleshy and balanced, developing well with time.

1995 Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation: Napa Valley, Spring Mountain District
Vineyard: Chevalier 65%, Miravalle 35%
Varietal: Cabernet Sauvignon 100%
Aging: 22 Months in New French Oak

Winemaker Notes

Dark to very dark ruby. Medium intense, concentrated dark plum and blackberry aromas with touches of mint and anise. Concentrated, forward, rich, ripe, dark plum and cassis flavors on the palate with a great texture and medium tannins. This wine is showing particularly well now. A true gem.

The 1995 Vintage

Extreme weather patterns punctuated the growing season. Veraison was blessed by moderately warm days and cool evenings, which provided extended hang time. The wines have great structure and surprising depth.



1996 Cabernet Sauvignon

- Appellation:** Napa Valley, Spring Mountain District
Vineyard: La Perla 64%, Chevalier 29%, Alba 4%, and Miravalle 3%
Varietal: Cabernet Sauvignon 83%, Merlot 10%, Cabernet Franc 5%, Petit Verdot 2%
Aging: 22 Months in New French Oak

Winemaker Notes

Dark ruby. Forward, concentrated dark plum aromas with a slight earthy edge. Medium bodied, dark cherry and plum flavors on the palate with excellent balance combined with medium tannin. Similar to the 1997 in style, this wine has reached a very enjoyable plateau in its development.

The 1996 Vintage

Extremely warm weather post veraison lead to a compact harvest. Selective picking produced clean fruit that was physiologically mature.

1995 Syrah

- Appellation:** Napa Valley, Spring Mountain District
Vineyard: Miravalle 100%
Varietal: Syrah 95%, Viognier 5%
Aging: 30 Months in New French Oak

Winemaker Notes

Opaque, purplish, dark ruby. Ripe, forward, full bodied aromas of blueberry and raspberries with notes of freshly cooked bacon. Medium full bodied on the palate with concentrated, ripe flavors of blueberry, integrated oak and distinct tannins. Blended with 5% Viognier, this wine is surprisingly youthful.

The 1995 Vintage

Extremely warm weather post veraison lead to a compact harvest. Selective picking produced clean fruit that was physiologically mature.



1996 Syrah

Appellation: Napa Valley, Spring Mountain District
Vineyard: Miravalle 100%
Varietal: Syrah 95%, Viognier 5%
Aging: 24 Months in New French Oak

Winemaker Notes

Opaque, purplish, dark ruby. Intense, rich, forward aromas of blueberry and blackberry with some oak and a touch of game. Medium full-bodied on the palate with very rich, ripe, concentrated blackberry flavors, distinct tannins and a long finish. Enjoyable now, this stylish wine has a bright future ahead of it.

The 1996 Vintage

Extremely warm weather post veraison lead to a compact harvest. Selective picking produced clean fruit that was physiologically mature.

1997 Syrah

Appellation: Napa Valley, Spring Mountain District
Vineyard: Miravalle 100%
Varietal: Syrah 100%
Aging: 22 Months in French Oak

Winemaker Notes

Opaque purplish, dark ruby with a vibrant red rim. Deep, balanced ripe blackberry and black raspberry flavors accented by minerals and some game. Rich, ripe flavors of blackberry and blueberry on the palate with balanced oak and a long finish. Well-constituted and built to last.

The 1997 Vintage

The growing season began early with moderate to warm weather lasting the length of the season. Harvest was early and heavy. The warm days of September ripened the fruit to its full physiological development.