



napa valley vintners

What are top trade and media saying about Napa Valley's 2011 vintage?

"I suspect many consumers will write it off (the 2011 vintage) because of today's cultural obsession with all things negative. That would be an egregious error. There are some truly great wines that taste like they came from 2012 or 2010 rather than 2011." *Robert M. Parker Jr. writing about the Napa Valley in the October 31, 2013 issue of The Wine Advocate*

"Napa's cool, wet 2011 vintage has been treated 'charitably' by most critics, the same way they might treat a three-legged puppy with asthma. But I think that, like '98, the last widely panned Napa vintage, the 2011 Cabernets might one day be the best-tasting bottles in those wineries' cellars." *Blake Gray, wine-searcher.com, September 24, 2104.*

"With the 2011s on a whole, you see incredible style and finesse. Although the growing season was relatively cool, when you taste these wines, you realize that Napa Valley has come so far that its winemakers know how to deal with cold weather or warm weather and the result is great wines." *Larry Stone, Master Sommelier, as mentioned at Premiere Napa Valley 2013*

"I love the 2011s - they are elegant, with a beautiful mid-palate...just my style." *Steven Spurrier, award-winning author, educator, and organizer of the seminal 1976 'Judgment of Paris' tasting, as mentioned at Premiere Napa Valley 2013*

"2011 is a year when nature has offered some very good base material for those who choose to respect it." *Jon Bonne, wine editor for the San Francisco Chronicle, October 16, 2011*

"The 2011 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons have turned out better than I expected. It was a challenging vintage, but the best wines will surprise readers for their aromatic intensity, finesse, balance and sense of place. Most importantly, 2011 is a beautiful vintage through which to discover what makes Napa Valley's best *terroirs* so compelling." *Antonio Galloni, Vinous, November 2013*

"As a set, these were juicy, fresh wines rather than plush and syrupy. The best had earthy, mineral qualities not ordinarily associated with many Napa reds. They were wines that I could imagine drinking with gusto throughout a meal..." *Eric Asimov, wine editor for The New York Times, April 14, 2014*

"Yes, 2011 was cold. Yes, some vineyards were hit with rot. Yes, it was a difficult vintage. But the 2011s in general are more than just good wines. They reflect the style and texture that once, in the 1980s, routinely made some of the state's finest wines." *Dan Berger, wine columnist, June 26, 2014*

"Premiere Napa Valley is the perfect occasion to get a sense of the recent Cabernet vintages and this year the truth was in the tasting. I think most people in attendance will agree the 2011s are lovely, elegant wines with pristine fruit, and impeccable balance and structure to last a decade or two," *Peter Marks, Master of Wine and vice president of wine education for Constellation Brands, as mentioned at Premiere Napa Valley 2013*

"...for all the headaches and ordinary wines from 2011, there are plenty of lessons. One is that modern viticultural practices could salvage what was in most ways a nightmarish vintage. Those who made excellent wines clearly had vineyards in pristine sites and paid attention to the smallest of details. Those who made a substantial amount of excellent wine, as in a few thousand cases, were really on top of everything, including separating marginal lots from superior ones." *James Laube, Wine Spectator online, December 13, 2013*