



Robert Parker's
Wine Advocate

The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

RATING SYSTEM

Robert Parker's rating system employs a 50-100 point quality scale. It is my belief that the various twenty (20) point rating systems do not provide enough flexibility and often result in compressed and inflated wine ratings. THE WINE ADVOCATE takes a hard, very critical look at wine, since I would prefer to underestimate the wine's quality than to overestimate it. The numerical ratings are utilized only to enhance and complement the thorough tasting notes, which are my primary means of communicating my judgments to you.

96-100	An extraordinary wine of profound and complex character displaying all the attributes expected of a classic wine of its variety. Wines of this caliber are worth a special effort to find, purchase, and consume.
90-95	An outstanding wine of exceptional complexity and character. In short, these are terrific wines.
80-89	A barely above average to very good wine displaying various degrees of finesse and flavor as well as character with no noticeable flaws.
70-79	An average wine with little distinction except that it is soundly made. In essence, a straightforward, innocuous wine.
60-69	A below average wine containing noticeable deficiencies, such as excessive acidity and/or tannin, an absence of flavor, or possibly dirty aromas or flavors.
50-59	A wine deemed to be unacceptable.

CADE WINERY	2007 CABERNET SAUVIGNON	HOWELL MTN.	(\$68.00)	RED	90+
CADE WINERY	2007 CABERNET SAUVIGNON	NAPA	(\$60.00)	RED	91+
CADE WINERY	2007 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE	HOWELL MTN.	(\$126.00)	RED	95+

The proprietor of Cade Winery is a member of San Francisco's Getty family who has partnered up with the city's mayor, Gavin Newsome. The **2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa** (4,000 cases produced) is a serious effort revealing delicious blue and black fruits intermixed with notes of crushed rocks and spring flowers. With supple tannins, loads of fruit and flavor, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and no hard edges, it should be even better in 2-3 years, and last for 12-15. Not surprisingly, it comes from a blend of fruit from some extraordinary vineyards (Beckstoffer George III in Rutherford, the Kenefick Ranch in Calistoga, and the Beckstoffer Dr. Crane in St. Helena). The **2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain**, a blend of estate and non-estate fruit (from mountain vineyards such as Ink Grade, Outpost, True, and Pestoni), is closed at present, but it appears to be loaded with potential. Abundant notes of

cassis, black raspberry and blackberry fruit intermixed with notions of chocolate, cocoa, and bay leaf are followed by a structured, tannic, medium to full-bodied wine that needs some time in the bottle. Give this well-built, masculine Cabernet Sauvignon 4-5 years of cellaring, and consume it over the following two decades. Absolutely sensational, the **2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate Howell Mountain** is a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot. It reveals a strikingly provocative aromatic display of blue and black fruits, crushed rocks, violets, and a hint of chocolate. This full-bodied, dense, classic mountain Cabernet Sauvignon is built for long-term aging. Its opaque purple color, awesome concentration and texture, and foreboding personality suggest 5-6 years of bottle age is warranted. It should drink well over the following 30+ years. Tel. (707) 965-2746; Fax (707) 965-2750

PLUMPJACK	2007 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE	OAKVILLE	(\$78.00)	RED	95
PLUMPJACK	2007 CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVE ESTATE	OAKVILLE	(\$200.00)	RED	99
PLUMPJACK	2007 MERLOT	NAPA	(\$50.00)	RED	92
PLUMPJACK	2007 SYRAH	NAPA	(\$42.00)	RED	93+

Winemaker Tony Biagia continues to fashion prodigious wines for both the Getty family and its partner, San Francisco's mayor, Gavin Newsome. The 2007s are the most impressive group of wines Plumpjack has released to date. The **2007 Merlot** (91% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc) boasts a dense purple color as well as a gorgeously sweet perfume of white chocolate, coffee beans, plums, black currants, and a hint of mocha. Full-bodied and dense with layers of fruit and glycerin as well as a sumptuous texture, this terrific wine can be drunk over the next 10-15+ years. One of Napa Valley's finest Syrahs is Plumpjack's offering. The blockbuster **2007 Syrah** was produced from two sources, the Stagecoach Vineyard in Oakville and Carneros' Hudson Vineyard. This wine, which includes 35% whole clusters, exhibits an incredible perfume of creosote, blackberries, bacon fat, licorice, and a subtle touch of peppers as well as truffles. Sweet tannins, palate-staining levels of richness, and a sumptuous mouthfeel with no hard edges are the stuff of Syrah dreams. It's a steal at this price, and should evolve easily for a decade or more.

The **2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate** is a 100% Cabernet Sauvignon cuvée from Plumpjack's Oakville ranch, where Nils Venge once made the famed Cabernet Sauvignons under the Villa Mt. Eden label. (The 1974s and 1978s are still going strong.) Floral notes intermixed with *crème de cassis*, white chocolate, plum, and licorice characteristics are followed by a wine with supple tannins, fabulous concentration, a multilayered mouthfeel, and a finish that lasts 40+ seconds. This incredible Cabernet can be drunk now or cellared for 20-25 years. The virtually perfect **2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve** (94% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Petit Verdot) does indeed recall those great Villa Mt. Eden Cabernets of 1974 and 1978. An inky/purple hue is accompanied by a provocative aromatic display of blackberries, blueberries, cassis, spring flowers, and graphite. The wine's extraordinary purity, unbelievable density of fruit, and full-bodied mouthfeel result in an awesome Cabernet Sauvignon that should drink well for three decades or more. This modern day legend is the finest wine to emerge from the Plumpjack winery. Bravo! Tel. (707) 945-1220; Fax (707) 944-0744