

The PICKS

FEATURE WINES

Evidence 2021 Evidence of Divine Intervention Cabernet Sauvignon

Now I will preface this with a little caveat... this is not the most affordable bottle on earth, but I just have to select it for Christmas, and you will see why: Evidence 2021 Evidence of Divine Intervention Cabernet Sauvignon from their Immaculate Vineyard in Napa Valley. I mean, does it get any more fitting than that? Evidence's winemaker, Jason Court, abandoned Hollywood during a 2002 industry strike and went to Napa to partake in his first harvest at 39 years old... he survived and spent the next seven years training under Chris Carpenter. This "immaculate" bottle is 86% Cabernet Sauvignon blended with 14% Cabernet Franc to achieve the perfect balance. "The nose is red fruit straight out front. Rose petals, ripe strawberries and boysenberry, with a touch of black pepper are countered with dark chocolate and cinnamon. The oak, acid and boldness of flavor are perfectly balanced." With 95 points from Wine Spectator, they add, "As open and enticing as a young Coombsville Cab could be, offering generous flavors of plum sauce and blackberry compote laced with a melted black licorice... drink now through 2038." The cost is \$147.99, but this is indeed a special bottle for your Christmas dinner or gift.

WINE PICK

Col Solare 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon

And now for my favorite... Col Solare 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon for \$99.99 a pop. I've talked about this wine before, but it's time to do it again. Col Solare is "a Washington icon of Italian heritage" as it is part of the Marchesi Antinori wine portfolio. It's the brainchild of Antinori and Château Ste. Michelle, combining Washington fruit with Italian tradition and technique. It hails from Washington's Red Mountain, the best place for Cab in the entire state, no doubt about it... it's actually named Red Mountain because it's over halfway covered in red grapes. It's a rich, smooth red that pairs beautifully with food. Comprised of 100% estate fruit Cabernet Sauvignon, "Col Solare Cabernet Sauvignon offers aromas of black currant, plum, and blackberry with subtle notes of dried herb, coffee, and loamy earth. Layered in complexity with flavors of dark cherry and cocoa, this wine has rich, refined tannins that lead to a long, elegant finish." I would pick this time and time again...