

The PICKS

FEATURE WINES

Dolum Estates 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon

This is an exciting one... Dolum Estates 2019 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. This 94-point bottle sells for \$100 at the winery, and we have it HALF OFF at \$49.99. The grapes in this bottle are taken from small sub-districts throughout Napa, including Stags Leap and 40+ year old vines in Oakville. The 2019 growing season was mild and foggy, leading to elegant acidity and soft tannins, with aging in French oak, allowing the expressiveness of the grapes to really shine. This Cabernet "has expressive aromas displaying roast plum, dark rose florals, chocolate, dark fruit, cinnamon and some sweet toasty oak. Intensity is first and foremost. It unfurls in the glass, revealing dark plum and black truffle scents infused with warm summer berries. Perfectly uniform acidity, wholly refined tannins, with silken texture." There is some of that iconic Napa wild mint in there too. As they say on their website, "Dolum Estates was born to create limited quantities of super premium Napa Valley red wines. Each unique and elegant - classics and unmistakably Napa." That sounds about right because it is already sold out with the distributor, so try it now because it's one and done for us.

WINE PICK

Wildeckrans 2022 Estate Pinotage

It's been a bit of a struggle getting in wines from South Africa over the past year or so, but we got our hands on a good one this week: Wildeckrans 2022 Estate Pinotage. As you may or may not know, Pinotage is the premier grape of South Africa. It's a cross between Pinot Noir and Cinsault and celebrated its 100th birthday just last year. Pinot Noir, though elegant and refined, can be a difficult grape to grow and was not very successful in South Africa, and Cinsault is heartier, and thus Pinotage was born. Wildeckrans is a sustainable and eco-friendly winery located in the Western Cape, with cool ocean breezes and low-yielding vines creating some truly fine wines. It was actually founded in the 1970s as a farm for wheat, olives, and of all things ostriches, but they soon realized it was ideal for grapes, and here we are. This Pinotage is invitingly rich with notes of mulberry, mocha, and light spice with a surprising complexity and fruity finish. It would be a great choice for red meat, anything smoked or barbecued, and of