



# Wine Spectator

## 9 INTRIGUING CALIFORNIA CABERNETS

New reviews of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc

January 25, 2016

*Tasting Highlights bring the best wines from our editors' most recent tastings to WineSpectator.com members.*

Cabernet Franc is flexing its muscles in Cab country. It's the grape vintners are using to add a touch of finesse to their Cabernet Sauvignons and Merlots. The only trouble is that its limited acreage makes it one of California's most expensive and hard-to-find grapes, forcing producers to seek vineyards off the beaten path.

*Near the front of the herd are Tracey and John Skupny, who have championed Franc for more than two decades at Lang & Reed. The Skupnys are Francophiles who discovered Franc while traveling through the Loire, where it stars in the region's red wines. In the 1980s they moved to Napa, where John worked for Caymus and Niebaum-Coppola (Inglenook) and Tracey sold wine for Spottswoode. Napa grapes made up the bulk of their early wines but scarcity led them to Lake County to keep prices fair. They produced a strikingly complex version in 2013, combining grapes predominantly from High Valley and Red Hills.*

### LANG & REED 2013 CABERNET FRANC – NORTH COAST

*Score: 91 points*

Strikingly complex, dense and aromatic, with a rich core of vivid, graphite-laced dark berry, loamy earthy, underbrush and melted chocolate. Gains depth and nuance on the finish. Drink now.

4,082 cases made.—J.L.

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