



## NAPA VALLEY'S EXTRAORDINARY 2016 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

### ANTONIO GALLONI, DECEMBER 14 2018

Napa Valley enjoyed an extraordinary vintage in 2016. The bottled 2016s are every bit as viscerally thrilling as they were last year when I tasted them from barrel. Best of all, 2016 is a captivating vintage from top to bottom, with a bevy of stunning wines for every palate and budget, as well as a number of bottles that are destined to become icons.

Winemaker Dan Petroski turned out an absolutely stellar set of wines at Larkmead in both 2016 and 2017. The bottled 2016s capture every bit of potential I sensed in these wines when they were in barrel

VINTAGE	NAME	TASTING NOTES	SCORE
2016	Cabernet Sauvignon	The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is absolutely gorgeous. Fresh, perfumed and silky, the 2016 captures all of the most elegant qualities of the year. Crushed flowers, sweet red berries, mint, rose petal and spice notes are laced throughout in this subtle, gracious Cabernet Sauvignon. All the elements are simply in the right place. It is so great to see Larkmead's entry-level Cabernet capture all the potential it showed as a young barrel sample.	93
2016	Firebelle	The 2016 Firebelle is dense, pliant and super-expressive, with terrific depth and textural resonance. Today, the Firebelle shows more floral and savory notes than it did earlier in the year. Even so, the 2016 is vibrant, focused and full of character. The firm tannins need time to soften, but there is plenty to look forward to.	94
2016	LMV Salon	The 2016 LMV Salon is just as compelling from bottle as it was from barrel. Rose petal, mint, sweet red cherry and espresso open up in a very pretty, aromatically expressive wine. Cabernet Franc takes the leading role in the LMV Salon in 2016, and that comes through very nicely here. Bright, vibrant and full of character, the 2016 hits all the right notes. What a gorgeous wine it is.	95
2016	Cabernet Sauvignon Dr. Olmo	The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Dr. Olmo retains much of the youthful intensity and raw power it showed as a barrel sample. Savory herbs, gravel, game, wild cherry, leather, spice, menthol and dried flowers give the 2016 its distinctive aromatic signatures. Despite its mid-weight feel, the 2016 carries quite a bit of tannin and more than enough structure to age gracefully for many years to come.	94
2016	Cabernet Sauvignon Solari	The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Solari is the wine where all the Larkmead signatures come together. Powerful, resonant and also savory, the Solari has so much to offer. Bright red cherry, plum, mocha, new leather and spice infuse this unctuous yet structured, powerful Cabernet Sauvignon.	97
2016	Cabernet Sauvignon The Lark	Gravel, smoke, game, licorice and tobacco are some of the many notes that take shape in the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon The Lark. Powerful, vertical and explosive, the 2016 possesses tremendous depth and intensity. In the glass, The Lark is vertical in shape and intensely mineral-driven in profile. I can't wait to see how it ages. Lavender, menthol, spice and new leather add the closing layers of complexity.	97



## WINE SPECTATOR REVIEWS 2019

JAMES MOLESWORTH & MARYANN WOROBIEC

VINTAGE	NAME	TASTING NOTES	SCORE
2017	Lillie	Lemon meringue, pear and apple flavors show accents of nutmeg and toast, set on a rich, spicy frame, with firm acidity. A note of litsea oil lingers on the finish. Drink now. 374 cases made. — MW	90
2016	Cabernet Sauvignon	A flicker of savory leads off, giving the raspberry, red currant and cherry compote flavors lift and direction. Ends with a bramble hint as the fruit plays out nicely. Shows range, with freshness taking the lead and some depth in reserve. Drink now through 2030. 3,029 cases made. — JM	93
2016	Firebelle	Intense dried savory elements accent the brooding dark fruit and spice flavors. Muscular mocha and loamy notes show midpalate, with a finish that offers cream and baker's chocolate details. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2023. 1,293 cases made. — KM	90
2016	LMV Salon	This displays nice character, with tobacco, alder and singed iron notes leading off, backed by a solid core of steeped currant and blackberry fruit. The two sides pull together on the finish. An alder hint stitches this up at the very end. Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2020 through 2032. 680 cases made. — JM	93
2016	Cabernet Sauvignon Dr. Olmo	This is distinctive, with a loamy lead-in that quickly yields to enticing alder, flint, savory, sage and tar notes ahead of a core of well-steeped currant and blackberry fruit. Keeps a smoldering edge through the finish, with earth and fruit notes working together. Best from 2022 through 2036. 1,467 cases made. — JM	94
2016	Cabernet Sauvignon Solari	Bright red currant, raspberry and damson plum coulis flavors race through, with tweaks of savory and saffron as well. Rich and polished in feel, with a well-embedded singed juniper thread on the finish. Distinctive and long. Best from 2020 through 2035. 788 cases made. — JM	94
2016	Cabernet Sauvignon The Lark	Mulled spice, singed vanilla and lightly steeped raspberry and boysenberry fruit weave together, picking up light anise and black tea accents along the way. The finish is rounded in feel, but also persistent, letting the fruit and spice take a stylish encore. Best from 2020 through 2030. 237 cases made. — JM	93