

REVIEWS

CABS V. ZINS



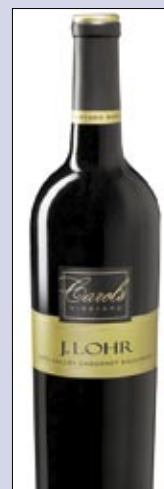
Francis Coppola Director's Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 — Soft and slightly tannic. Very smooth from first sip to finish. Quite enjoyable. **90**



Terra d'Oro Deaver Vineyard Zinfandel 2007 — Rich and tasty. You get so many flavors – spice, blackberry, vanilla – among them. Simultaneously supple yet powerful. Great finish. **90**

J. Lohr Carol's Vineyard Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 —

Powerful nose. Packed with fruit and hints of vanilla oak, this Cab delivers excitement in a glass. **89**



Francis Coppola Director's Cut Cinema 2007 —

A very unique blend of Cab Sauv, Zin, Cabernet Franc and Petite Sirah. The Zin gives it a kick, while the other grapes offer subtle nuances. Cool label, too. **89**



Terra d'Oro Amador County Zinfandel 2007

— Spicy and very chewy. Again, winemaker Chris Leamy delivers consistently excellent Zin. Way to go. **89**





Rosenblum Cellars Vintner's Cuvee XXXIII Zinfandel —

Full-bodied and mouth filling. An excellent Zin for anything off the grill or just a big piece of meat. **88**



Edmeades Mendocino County Zinfandel 2009

— Packed full of ripe blackberry flavors, this Zin is full-bodied and slightly chewy. Very rewarding. **88**

Rosenblum Contra Costa Zinfandel 2007

— Made with grapes from Contra Costa, this Zin is full of cinnamon flavors. Quite spicy. Holds up well with most any type of food. Long finish. **88**



Beaulieu Vineyards Rutherford Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2008

— Hints of oak and slightly tannic. Pretty well-developed fruit, though it's still a young Cab. Lingering finish with some minerality. **88**



Frei Brothers Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel 2009

— Powerful nose and ripe blackberry fruit flavors that fill the mouth. Very intense. **88**

Frei Brothers Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2007

— Rich nose of ripe black fruit. Hint of cherries on the palate. Full-bodied and well-balanced but light on the tannins. Very enjoyable. **88**





J. Lohr Seven Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon 2009

— Always tasty, always dependable. Well-rounded dark fruit flavors with a pleasant finish. **88**



Murphy Goode Liar's Dice Zinfandel 2008 —

Winemaker Dave Ready, Jr. displays his colorful personality in this Zin. Medium- to full-bodied with a lasting finish, this Zin contains a healthy punch throughout. **88**

Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

2008 — Hints of oak and vanilla make this a well-rounded and supple Cab. Very enjoyable and always dependable. **87**



Joel Gott California Zinfandel 2008 —

Medium-bodied with ripe cherry flavors. Needs to open in the glass just a bit with a few swirls. Then it's even better. **87**



Arrowood Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 —

Slightly rustic and tannic. A Cab that holds up extremely well with bold-flavored foods. **87**

Trinchero Chicken Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon —

Looks good in the glass with sexy legs. In the mouth, it's a tad flabby. Still quite tasty. Needs some aging to meet high expectations. **87**





Napa Cellars Napa Valley Cabernet 2008 — Dry and a little light on first sip or two. After that, you pick up more depth in the fruit. **86**



Sterling Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 — Good legs. Pleasant nose. Medium-bodied strawberry flavors on the palate. A touch of tannins on the finish. **86**

Montevina Winery Zinfandel 2006 — From Amador County (the first clue it's going to be good), this wine is spicy and well-balanced. Not overpowering. In fact, a little extra kick on the finish would be welcome but still good. **86**



Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve Zinfandel 2009 — A mellow spicy flavors dominates the palate. Medium-bodied and easy to drink. **86**



Dynamite Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 — Lively strawberry fruit flavors. Light- to medium-bodied. Not quite what Jimmy Walker would call "Dynoooo-mite" but still good. **85**

Sutter Home Zinfandel 2009 — A lighter style Zin but still contains the traditional spice characteristics. A slightly fruity and smooth finish devoid of anything chewy. Would make a great house wine at any restaurant for about \$3-4 a glass. [Hint. Hint.] **84**

