

Vintage Retrospective: The 2007 Napa Valley Cabernets

BY STEPHEN TANZER | MAY 23, 2017

Napa Valley's 2007 Cabernets were extoled from the start, owing to a textbook growing season without temperature extremes, fully ripe but rarely roasted fruit, the glossy texture and mostly refined tannins of the wines, and their overall balance. Consumers and critics alike raved and, as is usually the case, too many of these wines were consumed in the year or two following their release. But in the past five or six years, several revisionist articles on the 2007 vintage have criticized the early praise as excessive, describing the wines instead as "monochromatic," "monolithic," "hollow," "too ripe," "too powerful," even "less good than either '06 or '08." So it was with more than my usual interest that I conducted an extensive horizontal tasting of the nearly ten-year-old '07s in March at Napa Valley Vintners in St. Helena.

Crocker & Starr

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2007 Cabernet Franc
St. Helena, Napa Valley

90_{pts}

Dark red-ruby. Serious, rather old-fashioned nose melds blueberry, licorice and tobacco leaf. Then surprisingly plush and layered on the palate, with well-integrated acidity framing the sweet berry and sexy tobacco leaf flavors. **An excellent, ripe vintage for this bottling: sappy and concentrated, showing a positive herbal complexity to its varietally expressive flavors of blueberry and licorice.** Drinking window: 2017 - 2027

