

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 Sauvignon Stone Place

St. Helena, Napa Valley

93_{pts}

Bright medium ruby. Aromas of blueberry and blackberry pastille are complemented and lifted by flowers, licorice and tobacco leaf. **This energetic, sharply delineated yet seductively sweet wine shows the lift and floral complexity of Cabernet Sauvignon at its best.** A superb vintage for this wine, with the vinosity, density, depth and balance for a long and graceful evolution in bottle. The finishing flavors of blackberry and licorice go on and on. Drinking window: 2020 - 2033

