



Vinous

96+ Points

Reviewed by
Antonio Galloni

Drink Date
2028– 2043

The **2023 Cabernet Sauvignon** is a hugely promising young wine. It emerges from the upper section of the vineyard, where the soils are the poorest and rockiest. This dense, full-throttle Cabernet Sauvignon is certainly not shy. Even so, it's the wine in this tasting that most reflects its recent bottling about four weeks before this tasting. Blackberry jam, crème de cassis, graphite, lavender and espresso stain the palate on the potent, explosive finish. The future is very bright.

Proprietors Christine O'Sullivan and Jim Bean continue to push the envelope of quality even farther at Brand. Their 2023s are outstanding wines that represent an inflection point for the estate. The 2023s were made by Philippe Melka then blended and finished by new winemaker Graeme MacDonald. The 2024s, which I tasted from barrel, are from a warmer vintage yet reflect an added kick of freshness and vibrancy MacDonald has brought to the wines. There's certainly a lot to look forward to here. O'Sullivan and Bean are among the most ambitious owners in Napa Valley today.

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