



### 1990 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

#### Rated 94

...The 1990 is fully mature, but it appears to have another decade of aging left. It exhibits terrific fruit intensity with lots of plum sauce, black currants, roasted meats, cedar and cassis. Full-bodied and quite mature (it reveals some lightening at the edge), it is in no danger of drying out or declining.

### 1991 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

#### Rated 96

...I've enjoyed many bottles of this spectacular effort, which still possesses a dense ruby/purple color as well as a sumptuous nose of spring flowers, graphite, loamy soil, crème de cassis, black cherries and blackberries. With sweet tannin, a full-bodied mouthfeel and incredible purity as well as youthfulness, this wine has another 15-20 years of life left in it. If this were a Bordeaux, one would think it was 8-10 years old, not two decades. There are no hard edges, and the seamless integration of all the component parts make it one of the prodigious Beringer Cabernet Sauvignon Private Reserves to drink now as well as over the next 20 years.

### 1992 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

#### Rated 92

...1992 turned out to be a classic Napa vintage in its exuberance and rich fruit. Although totally dry, it reveals a sweeter style with higher alcohol and glycerin and an impression of unctuousness and viscosity. While it does not exhibit the complexity of either the 1990 or 1991, it possesses a dense purple color along with a sexy, up-front, effusive, flamboyant style. Tasted by itself, I may have scored it higher, but in the context of the vertical tasting, it is dominated by such vintages as 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995 and 1997.

### 1993 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

#### Rated 93

...This was a challenging year, but the seemingly fully mature wine has turned out very well. Unlike 1992, 1991 and 1990, this vintage is best consumed over the next 5-7 years given its more fragile constitution.

### 1994 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

#### Rated 97

...A stunning, seamless Cabernet Sauvignon, it boasts abundant notes of white chocolate, crème de cassis, woodsmoke, spice box, licorice and forest floor, superb concentration, a full-bodied mouthfeel, sweet, integrated tannin and admirable youthfulness as well as freshness. This is one of the most Bordeaux-like wines in this vertical, with the lead pencil shavings and scorched earth characteristics pointing toward a Graves style. This beauty will continue to drink well for another two decades.

### 1995 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

#### Rated 96

...Still an adolescent in its development, it possesses a dense purple color along with a big, sweet bouquet of blackberries and cassis, a youthful mouthfeel, good acidity, full body, abundant fruit and glycerin and a long, heady finish. This vintage was somewhat forgotten because of all the hype surrounding 1994, but it has turned out to be a great one for Bordeaux varietals in Napa. This stunning Private Reserve should continue to drink well for another 15 or more years.

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Page 2

Robert Parker Retrospective Tasting, Wine Advocate Issue #195 cont.

## 1996 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

### Rated 88

...The 1996 is a very good Private Reserve and on its own may show slightly better, but it is clearly the weakest link in the first eight vintages of the nineties. It is fully mature and is unlikely to get any better.... Drink it over the next 4-5 years.

## 1997 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

### Rated 95

...Still densely purple-colored, the 1997 exhibits wonderful plum, blackberry, cedar, spice and subtle smoky oak notes, a gorgeously opulent texture, full-bodied power and hints of roasted espresso and white chocolate in the flavors. This beauty can be drunk now and over the next 12-15+ years. One of the all-time great Beringer Cabernet Sauvignon Private Reserves, it also has the highest production to date of this cuvee.

## 1998 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

### Rated 89

...The 1998 Private Reserve is fully mature, but should keep for another 5-10 years. More French than Napa in style, this earthy, spicy, foresty, herbal-scented wine reveals sweet plum, cola, cedar and mint notes, a healthy dark plum/garnet color, a medium-bodied mouthfeel, and lots of mineral earthiness (a characteristic of this cooler year).

## 1999 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

### Rated 89+?

...Beringer's 1999 Private Reserve reveals a dense purple color along with a flinty, herbal, austere personality that comes across like a young Medoc. Still vigorous, primary and unformed at age 13, it does not reveal the volume and amplexity I would expect of a top-flight Cabernet Sauvignon from either Beringer or Napa Valley. There is decent density, but the tannins are high and I'm not sure they will completely resolve themselves before this wine hits full maturity in a decade or so.

## 2000 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

### Rated 91

...Sweet black currant, blueberry and raspberry fruit intermixed with crushed rock and floral aromas jump from the glass of this sleeper of the vintage. The wine's saturated purple color, heady, medium to full-bodied mouthfeel and supple tannins result in a delicious, nearly fully mature Cabernet Sauvignon that can be enjoyed over the next 10-15 years.

## 2001 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

### Rated 97

...Spectacular... Just hitting late adolescence, this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon cuvee exhibits an opaque dark purple color along with a beautiful, smoky, sweet black currant, licorice, truffle, toast and underbrush-scented nose. With fabulous concentration, great intensity and tremendous purity, this voluptuously textured, full-bodied classic is one of the all-time great Beringer Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignons. While drinkable now, it will continue to evolve for at least another 20 years. Of all the superb Private Reserve vintages, the 2001 ranks alongside the 1991, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2005 and 2007.

## 2002 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

### Rated 94

...This exuberant, powerful wine exhibits a dense purple color as well as a wonderful, sexy, earthy, flamboyant bouquet and sweet, fat, fleshy flavors. This is a succulent, classic California fruit bomb offering up spice box, licorice, tobacco leaf, seductive smoky oak, and abundant crème de cassis and blackberry fruit. Viscous, thick and juicy, it appears to be on a relatively fast evolutionary track and can be drunk now or cellared for another 10-15 years.

## 2003 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

### Rated 93

...The 2003 appears to have more potential longevity than the 2002. An elegant Cabernet, it reveals abundant notes of chocolate, black cherries, black currants and earth in its dense, medium to full-bodied personality. With beautiful purity, sweet tannin and a nicely delineated, structured mouthfeel, it is still a young, but accessible wine that will not reach full maturity for another 5-6 years. It should keep for at least two decades.

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Page 3

Robert Parker Retrospective Tasting, Wine Advocate Issue #195 cont.

## 2004 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

**Rated 94**

...Sweet notes of licorice, cedar wood, blackberries, toast, pepper and bay leaf are all present in this big, full-bodied, opulent, lusty California-styled wine. Exotic with loads of fruit and on a fast evolutionary track, the 2004 can be drunk now or cellared for another 10-15 years.

## 2005 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

**Rated 97**

...Still a baby in terms of development, it is reminiscent of a first or second-growth Pauillac. Celestial notes of black currants, camphor, graphite, cocoa, white chocolate and spice box are all present in this full-bodied, extravagantly rich, multidimensional Cabernet. Although still primary, it is very classic with terrific purity, texture and length. It will need another decade to hit full maturity, but should easily last 15-20 years thereafter.

## 2006 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

**Rated 93+**

...Abundant smoke, chocolate, espresso roast, cassis and mocha characteristics are found in this full-bodied, powerful, layered Cabernet. Although not quite as seamless as the nearly perfect 2005 Private Reserve, it is a big, dense beauty from a somewhat forgotten Napa Valley vintage. Give it 3-4 years of cellaring and drink it over the following two decades or more.

## 2007 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

**Rated 97**

...One of the finest Private Reserves made over the last two decades, this phenomenal wine is obviously still an infant in terms of development, but it exhibits a dense purple color as well as an extraordinary nose of blackberries, white chocolate, licorice, tobacco leaf, smoky barbecue, charcoal and a burning ember-like note reminiscent of a Graves from Bordeaux. A dense, luscious, full-bodied, opulent style, with sweet tannin, this locked and loaded, intense, full throttle Private Reserve should be accessible in 5-6 years and last for 25-30.

—Robert Parker's Wine Advocate – June 30, 2011, Issue #195

