

Cardinale

Cardinale 2014 is a masterpiece of Napa Valley winemaking, blending mountain-grown Cabernet Sauvignon with finesse and precision to create a wine of exceptional depth and complexity.

CARDINALE

Cardinale 2014

California, USA



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot

Region and Vineyards

Cardinale sources its grapes from some of the most prestigious mountain vineyards across **Napa Valley**, including sites in **Howell Mountain, Mt. Veeder, Spring Mountain, and Diamond Mountain**. These elevated locations provide a unique combination of intense sunlight and cooler temperatures, enabling slow ripening and the development of complex flavors.

The **2014 vintage** was characterized by warm temperatures and foggy mornings, creating optimal conditions for grape maturation. A perfect spring bud break set the stage for an early harvest, with fruit showing remarkable concentration and balance. These unique conditions produced wines with **vibrant acidity, ripe tannins, and expressive aromatics**, hallmarks of the vintage.

Winemaking

The **2014 Cardinale** blend is predominantly **Cabernet Sauvignon**, with a small portion of **Merlot** adding finesse and elegance. The winemaking process is meticulous, with grapes hand-harvested and sorted for quality before undergoing fermentation in small stainless steel tanks to preserve precision and purity of flavor.

Aging occurs over **20 months in 100% French oak barrels**, with a significant proportion of new oak to impart structure and subtle toasty notes. The blend is carefully crafted by winemaker Christopher Carpenter to highlight the unique characteristics of each vineyard, ensuring a wine that is layered, balanced, and seamless.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with garnet highlights.
- **Aroma**: Intense and refined, with notes of **blackcurrant**, **ripe blackberry**, and **plum**, complemented by hints of cedar, vanilla, and dark chocolate.
- **Palate**: Rich and full-bodied, with silky tannins and flavors of **black cherry**, **blueberry**, and subtle spice. The wine's vibrant acidity balances its depth, leading to a long, elegant finish with lingering notes of mocha and graphite.

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Did You Know?

Cardinale's blending philosophy is inspired by the idea of creating harmony among Napa's diverse mountain terroirs. Each vineyard contributes a unique element, from the structured tannins of Howell Mountain to the lush fruit of Mt. Veeder, resulting in a wine that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Beef Wellington**: The wine's depth and complexity complement the dish's richness and savory flavors.
- **Grilled lamb chops with rosemary**: The structured tannins and herbal undertones harmonize with the lamb and its earthy notes.
- **Dark chocolate truffles with sea salt**: The wine's dark fruit and mocha finish enhance the chocolate's bittersweet profile.
- **Aged Gouda or Parmesan**: Its bold character and acidity balance the saltiness and nutty flavors of these cheeses.

98

Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2014)

A magnificent wine made the by the brilliant winemaker Chris Carpenter, who also works for the Kendall-Jackson empire at Lakoya and a handful of other estates, this blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Merlot is sourced from multiple vineyards owned by the Jacksons, from Veeder Peak to Spring Mountain to Howell Mountain. In 2014, it reminded me of a great vintage of Pontet-Canet from Pauillac, but slightly bigger than life. The inky purple color, the stunning nose of cedar wood, unsmoked cigar tobacco, graphite, crème de cassis and subtle new oak is followed by a multi-layered, profoundly concentrated, large-scaled wine with sensational levels of blackcurrant fruit moving toward blackberries. A wine of great intensity, silky tannins and adequate acidity, this is clearly one of the great, great wines of the vintage, and another tour de force in winemaking from Carpenter. It is a 15- to 20- year wine, but the window for drinking its is probably that big as well.

98 JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 98 Points (2014)

The 2014 Cardinale is another awesome wine from winemaker Chris Carpenter, and I actually like it more than the 2015. A blend from multiple estate vineyards, its deep purple color is followed by a larger than life bouquet of sweet crème de cassis, scorched earth, graphite, tobacco leaf and spicy wood. A big, opulent, sexy wine, it has incredible grace and elegance as well as beautiful purity and a great finish. This is a tour de force in Cabernet Sauvignon that does everything right. It's approachable today (as are almost all 2014s) yet is going to cruise in the cellar for another two decades or more. Bravo!