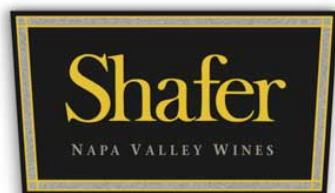




# Shafer

An icon of Napa Valley, this Cabernet delivers profound richness, precise structure, and age-worthy finesse from the steep slopes of the Stags Leap District.



## Hillside Select 2018

California, USA

### Region and Vineyards

Shafer Hillside Select is rooted exclusively in the **Stags Leap District**, a revered appellation in the southeastern portion of Napa Valley. This AVA is internationally renowned for producing Cabernet Sauvignon of extraordinary purity, balance, and longevity. The district's signature terroir—**volcanic soils layered with ancient river sediments**—offers exceptional drainage and low fertility, encouraging vines to struggle, resulting in smaller berries with concentrated flavor. Combined with dramatic diurnal temperature shifts, the region's climate preserves acidity and structure while allowing full phenolic ripeness.

The wine is sourced from Shafer's estate hillside parcels: **Sunspot, John's Upper 7, Venado Illegal, and Firebreak**. These steep, rugged vineyard blocks are cultivated with painstaking care, and their extreme slope angles ensure maximum sun exposure and airflow, leading to exceptional fruit quality. Yields are kept deliberately low, and all vineyard work is performed with sustainable viticultural practices, reinforcing the estate's deep respect for the land and its long-term vitality. These elevated sites give Hillside Select its hallmark power, complexity, and ability to age gracefully for decades.

### Winemaking

The 2018 growing season was long, cool, and even—offering ideal ripening conditions. The fruit enjoyed extended hang time under Napa's summer sun, developing deep color, layered aromas, and intense concentration.

Made from **100% Cabernet Sauvignon**, this wine was fermented and then aged for **32 months in 100% new French oak** (from Allier and Tronçais forests). The extended élevage builds structure, complexity, and polish. With **15.5% alcohol**, the wine displays generous opulence while maintaining impeccable balance—an achievement of both vineyard and cellar precision.

Alcohol :15,50 %

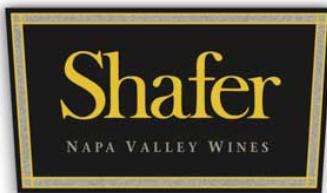
Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon



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# Hillside Select 2018

## Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Opaque ruby with purple hues, signaling depth and concentration.
- **Aroma:** Intense notes of blackberry, black cherry, warm earth, lavender, and baking spice, lifted by floral and mineral accents.
- **Palate:** Bold yet refined, with flavors of briar fruit, black plum, cassis, mocha, and cinnamon. Rich tannins and vibrant acidity frame a long, radiant finish with energy and finesse.

## Did you know?

Hillside Select has been produced since 1978 and is only made from Shafer's most select hillside blocks. Its name reflects the vineyard's dramatic slopes—some of Napa Valley's most prized Cabernet sites.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Dry-aged prime rib with black truffle jus:** Richness and depth echo the wine's dark fruit and oak-spiced palate.
- **Venison loin with blackberry gastrique:** The wild fruit and gamey notes mirror the wine's briary complexity.
- **Porcini mushroom ragù with polenta:** Earthy tones complement the Cabernet's savory layers and mocha nuances.
- **Aged Gouda or Comté:** Their nutty, crystalline character pairs beautifully with the wine's opulence and structure.

### Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 100 Points (2018)



Incredible purity and precision, as well as opulence, define the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Hillside Select, and this is as good as any Cabernet Sauvignon in the world today. Revealing a deep purple hue as well as a thrilling bouquet of pure crème de cassis, black raspberries, spring flowers, lead pencil shavings, and an incredible minerality, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a deep, layered, seamless texture, ample mid-palate depth, and a great finish. This is classic 2018 Napa Valley with its purity, freshness and precision as well as sensational concentration and perfectly integrated acidity, tannins, and alcohol. It delivers pleasure today yet warrants a solid 4-5 years of bottle age and is going to be a 30- to 40-year wine.

### James Suckling (JS) : 99 Points (2018)



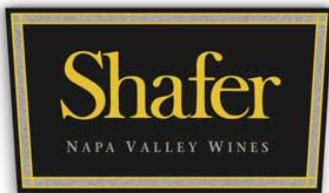
So much black licorice in this, together with tar, blackcurrants, blackberries and slate. Full-bodied, but very toned and focused, with polish and energy. Extremely fine tannins and wonderful length. All about balance and purity. Gorgeous now, but this will age for decades to come. Great finish. Better after 2026.



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## Hillside Select 2018

**Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2018)**



*Made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Hillside Select displays a deep garnet-purple color. It charges out of the gate with bold crème de cassis, blueberry pie and black cherry preserves notes, plus hints of smoked meats, fragrant earth and tar, with a fragrant waft of violets and Provence herbs. Full-bodied, the palate is packed with muscular black fruits, supported by a solid foundation of firm, grainy tannins and compelling freshness, finishing long with an enticing herbal lift. Rating: 98+*



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