

## Robert Parker The Wine Advocate

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**Lewelling Vineyards**, which remains an incredibly underrated source of top flight Cabernet Sauvignon, has produced fabulous 2001s. A historical estate, founded in 1864 in the western foothills of St. Helena, the vineyard (28 acres) is one of the oldest family run estates in Napa Valley. The 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon exhibits extraordinary elegance and fragrance as well as that fullbodied ripeness and voluptuousness that California Cabernet can provide. Its inky/purple color is followed by a tremendous bouquet of smoke, licorice, roasted meats, new saddle leather, and gobs of black currant as well as blackberry fruit. It is a tremendously intense yet impeccably well-balanced Cabernet with a lushness and fragrance that suggest early drinkability. It should be accessible young yet keep and evolve for 15+ years. Great purity is a hallmark of this estate. Their 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon Wight Vineyard possesses exceptional stature, a seamless personality, and superbly rich, pristine black currant fruit that cascades over the palate in a beautifully textured, full-bodied style. The finish lasts for 45-50 seconds. The two wines' colors are similar, but the single vineyard offering has several more layers of richness and intensity. This great effort should hit its stride in 2-3 years, and last for 15-18. No single vineyard cuvée was produced in 2000 by this excellent, underrated winery, but their deep ruby/purple colored **2000 Cabernet Sauvignon** is an impressive effort in this difficult vintage. It boasts a pure nose of crème de cassis, vanilla, and spice as well as a lovely texture, and sweet, up-front fruit. It can be drunk now or cellared for 10-12 years. Kudos to the proprietors.

2001 Cabernet Sauvignon 93 pts 2000 Cabernet Sauvignon 90 pts 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon Wight Vineyard 95 pts