

Robert Parker The Wine Advocate

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Another under-the-radar producer of fabulous Cabernet Sauvignon, Lewelling's wines reveal a quality reminiscent of a high-class Pauillac from a ripe Bordeaux vintage such as 2009. The **2002 Cabernet Sauvignon** was aged 16 months in primarily French oak with a tiny bit (less than 10%) kept in American oak. From a vineyard just south of St. Helena on Lewelling Lane (a graveldominated alluvial bed at the base of the western foothills of the Mayacamas Mountains), it offers intense plum, blackberry and cassis notes intermixed with hints of roasted espresso, white chocolate and spice box. This silky textured, dense, opulent red wine reveals good underlying acidity, supple tannin and a long finish. It should hit full maturity in 2-4 years and last for 10-15 years thereafter. The limited production (under 400 cases) 2002 Cabernet Sauvignon Wight Vineyard spent 19 months in 100% new French oak. From a similar terroir, it exhibits an opaque purple color as well as notes of roasted espresso, creme de cassis, blackberries, and spring flowers, wonderful acidity, a mulitdimensional, freshly crushed black fruit mouthfeel, stunning opulence and density, and a finish that lasts 40-45 seconds. This killer Cabernet Sauvignon performed fabulously well after bottling and continues to age at a glacial pace. It will not hit its peak for another decade, and should last over the following quarter century.

2002 Cabernet Sauvignon Wight Vineyard 96 pts 2002 Cabernet Sauvignon 94 pts