



Enjoy Napa Valley new release wines during the Holidays

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It is hard to try figure out a great gift to the wine lover in your Christmas list. The answer may come from Napa Valley wineries. If you want to give a special bottle, try your favorite winery wine release. Here are some good examples of this year's Napa Valley wine releases that may call you attention to either gift away or to bring to a party to share with your friends.

[Ca'Momi Winery](#) Ca'Rosa Sparkling – This is a wine sure to enjoy all year-round. In the nose this is a bright pink bubbly boasting with pear, cantaloupe, pineapple, tutti frutti and orange blossom notes. On the palate you will find ripe strawberry, lychee and pear surrounded by tropical notes. This wine retails for \$17.95.

[Charles Krug](#) 2012 St. Helena Sauvignon Blanc – Yes, this is a 2012 vintage! It may one of the first wines we get to try from the 2012 vintage, which accordingly to Peter Mondavi Jr., “it has been one of the best years in Napa.” Conditions in 2012 were perfect and the winery was able to pick the Sauvignon Blanc fruit earlier than previous years. With 100% Sauvignon Blanc, in the nose it has aromas of grapefruit, lime and hints of lemongrass. In the palette you will find the grapefruit as well as melons and citrus, with a perfect balance or brightness and acidity. This wine retails for \$18.00.

Charles Krug 2011 Carneros Chardonnay – With 100% Chardonnay, in the nose you will find notes of tropical fruits, citrus and vanilla. In the palette you will have mouth-watering hints of citrus and peach favors with a hint of oak. It has a perfect balance of acidity and crispness with some lingering hints of sweetness. This wine retails for \$20.00.

Charles Krug 2011 Carneros Pinot Noir – With 95% Pinot Noir and 5% Petite Sirah, in the nose you will find notes of dark fruit, cherries and pomegranate. In the palette you will find dark berries, hints of vanilla and a spicy long lasting and well-balanced finish. This wine retails for \$27.00.

[Peju Province](#) 2009 Napa Valley Syrah - With a composition of 75% Syrah, 12 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot and 4%Merlot, this is a rich and inviting wine,

with aromas of cherries, dark berries, plums and spices. In the palette in well-balanced wine with a great lasting peppery finish that distinguished Syrah wines and boldness of the Cabernet Sauvignon. This wine retails for \$32.00.

Peju Province 2008 Napa Valley Merlot – With a composition of 93% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Zinfandel, this is a fruit forward bold wine. In the nose it is rich in dark fruit and red and dark berries. In the palette you will get hints plums, vanilla, some anise and smokiness. This wine retails for \$35.00.

[Phifer Pavitt](#) 2009 ‘Date Night’ Cabernet Sauvignon – From a new comer in the Napa Valley, this beautiful Cabernet Sauvignon promises you will be back for more. With a 98% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Petit Verdot, both organically grown, the fruit is allowed to dictate the wine style and it shows. This is a fruit forward wine with aromas of red cherries, plums, dark berries and baking spices. On the palette the fruit is the center of attention with lingering flavors of dark berries, chocolate and a hint of dryness that provides a great balance. This wine retails for \$80.00.



Phifer Pavitt Team from left to right: Shane Pavitt (owner), Suzanne Phifer Pavitt (owner) and Gary Warburton (winemaker) (Edgar Solis photo)



[Schramsberg Vineyards](#) 2009 J. Davies Cabernet Sauvignon Diamond Mountain – Gorgeous wine with richly perfumed aromas of blueberry and blackberry compote combine with mocha, anise, and clove. The palate is complex, fruitful, and refined. Boysenberry and black cherry mingle with black tea, tobacco and sweet spice. The flavors are seamlessly integrated with fine grain tannins, which sustain a long and luxurious finish. This wine retails for \$80.00.

[Robert Mondavi Winery](#) 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve – With 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, it has aromas of crème de cassis, black cherry, anise, violet, fresh herb and a hint of smoke. This is a wine with complex flavors and well-integrated tannins, vibrant acidity and a long, cocoa-mineral finish. This wine retails for \$135.00.

This is only an example of new releases some Napa Valley wineries are offering, other wineries have many other wine releases as well. Be adventurous and visit your local wineries. This is a good time to visit them, they are not as busy and many of them have good deals for Holiday gifts.