

11 Outstanding Reds From Famed Napa Winemakers That Won't Break the Bank

The rise of second labels from the likes of Opus One, BV and more are reason for oenophiles to rejoice.

By SARA L. SCHNEIDER 

Accendo Cellars 2018 Laurea Napa Valley



Photo: Sarah Anne Risk

Flagship Wine: Accendo Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon, \$365, 100 points for the 2018 from Antonio Galloni at Vinous.

When the Araujo family sold their legendary Eisele Vineyard, they very deliberately shifted from the single-vineyard model to multi-vineyard blending for their new brand, Accendo Cellars. The 2018 Laurea is the first vintage of the “second” wine they created, to benefit from the great fruit from their great vineyard sources that didn’t make the cut in their rigorous blending sessions for Accendo. But, says winemaker Françoise Peschon (who collaborates with winemaker Nigel Kinsman), Laurea is not a repository for everything left on the cutting room floor. They start over, with new blending sessions, to create another blend that’s the best of the next level. The 2018, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, opens with cocoa, minerals, graphite and tobacco under red fruit, followed by more ripe red fruit and fine-grained tannins, with a juicy mid-palate that yields a big yum factor.
