



INNOVATION & INTEREST FROM NAPA, BORDEAUX, ARGENTINA & ITALY
WEEKLY TASTING REPORT (FEBRUARY 15-21, 2021)

JAMES SUCKLING, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Napa's Larkmead is also high up on the list. I was impressed with the center palate of their reds from 2018. The vintage is an excellent one and produced reds with finesse and elegance due to the long growing season and high levels of crop. Larkmead Winemaker Dan Pietroski said in a Tasting Interview that they have been working on filling in the center palate of the wines by picking slightly earlier and reducing the levels of alcohol in his wines. Stay tuned for the video. Whatever he did, his reds shows a pretty depth and intensity and all this with less than 14 degrees alcohol.

VINTAGE	NAME	TASTING NOTES	SCORE
2018	Dr. Olmo	This is extremely perfumed with loads of sweet berries and flowers. Dark cherries, too. Full-bodied with ultra-fine tannins and a long, long finish. It's polished and bold at the same time. Vertical and deep. Give this four to five years to come around. Pure cabernet sauvignon. Best ever. Try after 2024.	98
2018	Solari	Beautiful aromas of currants, blackberries and flowers follow through to a full body with ultra-fine tannins that are polished and so long and persistent. Linear and very, very fine, yet structured. Try after 2025, but already very impressive to taste.	97
2018	LMV Salon	The aromas of orange peel, flowers, walnuts and chocolate are really enticing. Full-bodied, yet in check and focused. Chewy and flavorful. A little tight at the finish. But beautifully done. Try after 2024.	96
2018	Firebelle	Lovely aromas of tile, blackberries and plums with some lavender and violets, following through to a full body with chewy, round tannins that are layered into the pretty, not overly ripe fruit. Boisterous nature to this, but it will calm down with age. Drink after 2024, but already a beauty.	96
2018	Cabernet Sauvignon	Pretty aromas of currants, walnuts and fresh tobacco follow through to a full-bodied palate with dusty, chewy tannins and lots of berry, coffee and lightly toasted-oak undertones in the aftertaste. Needs some time to resolve the tannins. Very drinkable now, but better after 2025.	95