



# vinous

## **2018 Vintage Reviewed by Antonio Galloni**

*January 2021*

### **Sleeping Lady Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon: 100**

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Sleeping Lady Vineyard is an absolutely stunning wine. Over the last few years, I have written that the wines off this Yountville site have exploded in quality. Julien Fayard's 2018 is a great example of that. A Cabernet of mind-blowing intensity and purity, the 2018 dazzles from start to finish. Inky red fruit, raspberry jam, mocha, spice and rose petal build in the glass, framed by the silkiest tannins imaginable. It's simply the greatest wine I have ever tasted from Julien Fayard and one of the wines of the year. Wow!!

### **Martinez Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon: 97**

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Martinez Vineyard is broad and ample on the palate, with all of the natural mineral-infused breadth that is typical of this site in the Vaca Mountains. Crushed rocks, cedar, dried flowers, espresso and dark spices add layers of nuance to a core of inky dark fruit. This virile mountain Cabernet has a ton to offer. Give it a few years in bottle to soften first.

### **Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon: 94**

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve is loaded with the essence of crème de cassis, lavender, licorice, cinnamon and crushed rocks. Bright acids and beams of supporting structure add energy to play off the inky fruit. This is another absolutely impeccable wine from Julien Fayard.

### **Classic Cabernet Sauvignon: 93**

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Classic is plump, forward and ready to deliver pleasure. Inky red/purplish berry fruit, baking spices, rose petal, mocha and cedar are front and center. Ripe, silky tannins wrap around the juicy finish. The 2018 is such a gorgeous, plush Napa Valley Cabernet, and its a great value, too.

### **Platt Pinot Noir: 93**

The 2018 Pinot Noir Platt Vineyard is gracious and lifted, yet also has that inner sweetness that make wines from this Sonoma Coast site so special. Silky tannins wrap around a core of sweet red berry fruit. Vibrant acids lend brightness to rose petal and cinnamon accents on the finish. All the 2018 needs is a bit more fruit depth.

### **McGah Sauvignon Blanc: 93**

The 2018 Sauvignon Blanc McGah Vineyard is a gorgeous wine. Passionfruit, mint, tangerine oil and lightly honeyed notes bring out appealing, exotic Sauvignon Blanc nuances. Rich and viscous in the glass, with terrific resonance and brightness, the 2018 is superb.