



To blend or not to blend. . .

Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the most recognized and widely planted grapes in the world. It is a grape that can stand on its own, or can add complex and delicious flavors when combined with other varietals. This shipment of the Red Rogues features Cabernet Sauvignon playing a different role in each of the wines, from being a major part to being a minor component of a blend that includes Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Malbec.

If you thought Cabernet Sauvignon was important only in California, look closely. The wines featured this quarter come from South Africa, France, and New Zealand. Our intent is to have you experience the effect *terroir* (soil) has on the flavor and texture of the wines, and discover both similarities and differences among the three wines.

Cabernet Sauvignon-based wines pair beautifully with rich and robust dishes. To prove this point we consulted with PlumpJack Café's Chef, James Ormsby, and after tasting the wines, he decided to share his braised short ribs' recipe with the members of the Red Rogues. Invite some friends over, prepare the recipe, open the bottles and (hopefully it won't be a "school night") have fun!

Some of the most common descriptors for Cabernet Sauvignon are:

Fruit: black currant, blackberry, and black cherry
Oak: vanilla, coconut, sweet wood, smoke, toast, tar
Spice: ginger, green peppercorn, pimento
Bottle Age: cedar, cigar box, musk, mushroom, earth, leather

Some of the most common descriptors for Merlot are:

Fruit: black currant, black cherry, black olive, and blueberry
Oak: vanilla, coconut, sweet wood, smoke, toast, tar
Aromas: peppermint, sweet pepper., tobacco, cassis

Some of the most common descriptors for Malbec are:

Fruit: mulberry, raspberry, and blackberry
Others: tar, leather, and gamey-like characteristics

Some of the most common descriptors for Cabernet Franc are:

Fruit: raspberry and black currant
Aromas: grassy, lead pencil shavings, and delicious perfume components

In addition to the above descriptors, each of these wines can have hints of herbs, bay leaf, tomato, and hundreds of other flavors.

Five Reasons why PlumpJack loves Cabernet-based wines:

1. It's classic—why not?
2. There are so many different Cabernet producing countries and flavor profiles.
3. A bottle of Cabernet based wine and short ribs on Sunday makes for a perfect ending for the weekend.
4. Many Cab blends can be drunk early or can be aged for long periods of time.
5. PlumpJack Winery makes great Cabernet Sauvignon.

1999 Clos l'Eglise Cotes de Castillon , France - \$22.99

Here are the facts:

Location of Winery:	Côtes de Castillon, France
Owners:	Alain and François Raynaud
Vineyards:	138 Acres of hillside vines
Climate:	Hot, dry days
Approximate age of vines:	37 years
Cases produced:	5,000
Winemaker:	Michel Rolland (world renowned enologist)
Alcohol:	12.5%
Tasting Profile:	Pronounced eucalyptus, and lots of menthol with hints of chocolate. Very deep color, toasty oak with black-fruit aromas.
Aging Potential:	Drink now or will hold for 3-8 years.
Varietal components:	Merlot 70%, Cabernet Franc 20%, Cabernet Sauvignon 10%

Fun Fact: The Raynauds are partners with Chantal and Gérard Perse, who own Monbousquet, Chateau Pavie, and Chateau La Ciusière, some of the premier Chateaux in St. Emilion. Since the Perse's are newcomers to Bordeaux, they are making waves and are barely on speaking terms with their Bordeaux neighbors.

2000 Alpha Domus "The Navigator", New Zealand - \$19.99

Here are the facts:

Location of Winery:	Hawkes Bay, New Zealand
Owners:	The Antonius Ham family
Vineyards:	98 Acres
Climate:	Low rainfall with high summer temperatures
Approximate age of vines:	14 years
Cases produced:	890
Winemaker:	Evert Nijzink
Alcohol:	13.5%
Tasting Profile:	Aromas of cocoa, bright ripe, red fruit, with spice and oak. Firm tannin with flavors of red berries and black currants.
Aging Potential:	Drink now or hold for up to 6 years
Varietal components:	Merlot 58%, Cabernet Sauvignon 26%, Cabernet Franc 12%, Malbec 4%

Fun Fact: The name Alpha stands for the first initial of the first name of the 5 Ham partners, and of course Domus stands for house. A=Antonius, L=Lea, P=Paul, H=Henry, and A=Anthony.

2001 Plaisir De Merle Cabernet Sauvignon, South Africa - \$22.99

Here are the facts:

Location of Winery:	Cape Province, Paarl Valley, between the Groot & Meulstrom rivers in South Africa
Vineyards:	650 Acres
Climate:	Warm days and cool nights with various elevations and vineyards facing different directions
Approximate age of vines:	5-19 years
Cases produced:	Limited
Winemaker:	Niel Bester with consultant Paul Pontallier of Chateau. Margaux
Alcohol:	14.5%
Tasting Profile:	Deep purple color with a rich mouth feel, and flavors of blackberries and dark chocolate. Supple and unctuous with ample tannins.
Aging Potential:	Drink now or hold for 5 years
Varietal components:	Cabernet Sauvignon 95%, Merlot 5%

Fun Fact: The estate was founded by a French Huguenot in 1687, and there is a moat surrounding the winery as well as an elevated walkway inside the cellar.