

Up From The Cellar No. 22 & Misc. New Releases



BY **JEB DUNNUCK** | OCTOBER 25, 2023



This latest Up From The Cellar & Misc. Wines is another varied yet interesting lot of wines.

Looking at the wines from the United States, I was able to taste a retrospective of 2013s from both Larkmead Vineyards and Baldacci Family Vineyards. I continue to waffle on whether 2013 or 2016 is the greatest vintage for Napa Valley, and I've yet to make up my mind. Nevertheless, the 2013s, which have been shut down for years now, appear to finally be shedding their baby fat and massive tannins and are starting to drink beautifully.

As always, happy reading, and I hope you're enjoying these last fall days!

Jeb

Vin. ↕	Wine	◆ ● ◆	Rating ↕
2013	Baldacci Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon	●	94
2013	Baldacci Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Brenda's Vineyard	●	98
2013	Baldacci Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Ruppert	●	96

JEB DUNNUCK

98

2013 Baldacci Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Brenda's Vineyard

A smaller release, the 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Brenda's Vineyard is a tour de force that will compete with anything out there. Coming from a selection of the best parcels, it's still deep purple-hued with a heavenly bouquet of cassis, blueberries, truffles, chocolate, and spring flowers. It has more precision and elegance than the appellation release and offers a full-bodied, deep, and seamless mouthfeel, incredible richness as well as purity, ripe tannins, and a great finish. This is pure Napa Valley magic that could come from nowhere else. It benefits from a short decant and will evolve gracefully for another two decades.

- Jeb Dunnuck (10/24/2023)

© 2023 Jeb Dunnuck | Reprinted with Permission

JEB DUNNUCK

96

2013 Baldacci Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Ruppert

The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Ruppert is released as an homage to Paul Ruppert Baldacci, the father of the current proprietor Thomas Baldacci. It's another incredibly rich, powerful wine that certainly isn't showing any signs of fatigue now at age 10. Deep purple-hued, with a bombastic nose of blackcurrants, chocolate, scorched, truffle earth, and a kiss of iron, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a lush, sweetly fruited, powerful mouthfeel, full-bodied richness, and a great finish. It's the most opulent and sweetly fruited of the trio and will continue drinking well for another 15+ years.

- Jeb Dunnuck (10/24/2023)

© 2023 Jeb Dunnuck | Reprinted with Permission

JEB DUNNUCK

94

2013 Baldacci Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon

All from the Stags Leap District, the 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon is drinking brilliantly today, with a full-bodied, opulent, layered style that has tons to love. Blackcurrants, blackberries, chocolate, lead pencil, and hints of smoked tobacco all define this beauty, and it opens up beautifully with time in the glass, revealing a broad, expansive mouthfeel and a great mid-palate. It's an absolutely brilliant bottle of wine that will continue drinking nicely for another 10-15+ years, although I love it today.

- Jeb Dunnuck (10/24/2023)

© 2023 Jeb Dunnuck | Reprinted with Permission