

## The best Napa Valley 2023 Cabernets from each AVA

*Jonathan Cristaldi presents his pick of the best 2023 wines from Napa Valley's leading AVAs.*

June 1, 2026 - By Jonathan Cristaldi



### Top Calistoga 2023 Cabernets

At the northernmost end of Napa Valley, Calistoga sits at the foot of Mount St. Helena, nestled between the Mayacamas and Vaca mountain ranges. The AVA is typically warmer during the summer months than most other parts of the valley, allowing tannins to ripen fully. The best wines offer ample mouthfeel and complexity while maintaining balance, delivering richness without excessive heaviness or over-concentration.

### Baldacci Family Vineyards

#### 2023 Stella Knight Calistoga Cabernet Sauvignon, **94 points**

The winery's Calistoga Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from the Stella Knight Vineyard, nestled at the base of the Diamond Mountain District. Aged for 22 months in 55% new French oak, the 2023 is positively riveting, opening with pure dark fruits layered with tobacco, spice, rose petal, and scorched earth nuances, alongside hints of liquorice and blue fruit. Super-fine-grained tannins lend polish and precision.