

PEDRONCELLI

A Sonoma County Tradition Since 1927



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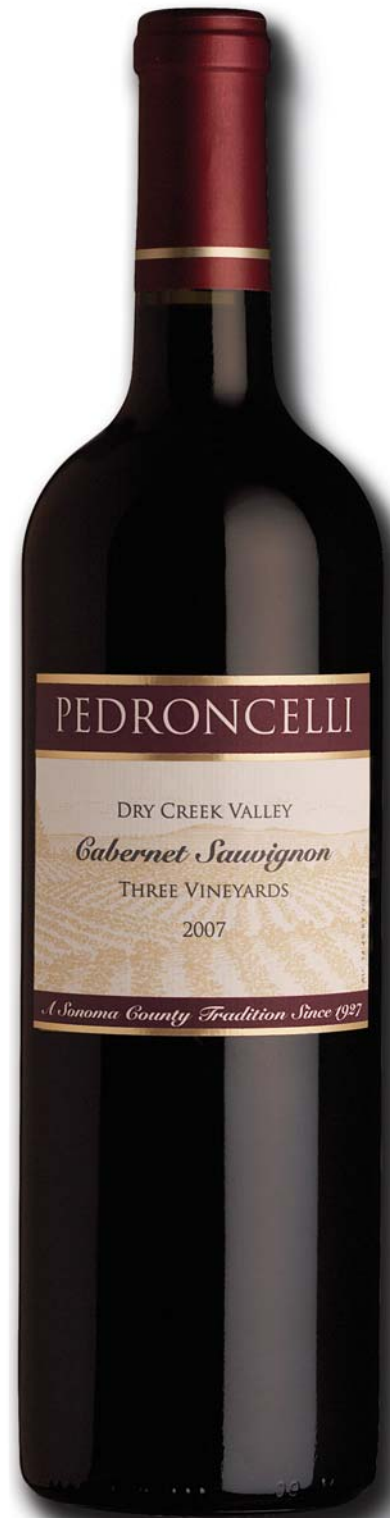
Buying Guide

It's tough to stand out in a sea of 91's but "\$16" helps!

91 **Newton 2005 The Puzzle (Spring Mountain); \$80.** A Bordeaux blend from Newton's mountain estate, this lovely wine starts out with a fat, fleshy appeal. It offers elaborate waves of sweetly smoked oak that conjoin nicely with cherry preserves, red licorice and dark chocolate. A bit inelegant now due to firm, fierce tannins, but so balanced, it should easily negotiate the years. Better after 2012. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.

91 **Pedroncelli 2007 Three Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley); \$16.** A pure, very clean and utterly delicious Cabernet that's perfect for drinking now. Shows real accomplishment in the ripeness of the blackberry, cherry, black currant and cocoa flavors, and in how well-balanced they are with tannins and oak. Just captivating, at a wonderful price. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.

91 **Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2006 Cask 23 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District); \$195.** A very good but not great Cask 23, showing plenty of decadence and flair but not perhaps that extra edge of complexity. It's forward now in sweet new oak and flashy, jammy blackberries, cherries and raspberries. The tannins are quite an achievement, rich, vibrant and supple. Made from 100% Cabernet, it's full-bodied and dense, with a chocolaty finish. Could gain in the bottle beyond 2012 to about 2018. —S.H.



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