



SBRAGIA

FAMILY VINEYARDS

MONTE ROSSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON SONOMA VALLEY

I've loved the Cabernet from Monte Rosso Vineyard for as long as I can remember, and I consider myself lucky that my good friend Mike Martini – whose family bought the ranch in the late 1930's – continues to share a couple of blocks with me every year. With elevations that range from 900 to 1,200 feet, the aptly named (by Mike's grandfather) Monte Rosso is a classic mountain vineyard, resting firmly on the southwest side of the Mayacamas mountain range in the Sonoma Valley AVA. Sitting above the fog line with undulating hillsides, the vineyard's iron-rich soils are red, rocky and well drained. Vines struggle for nutrients here, and the rich concentrated fruit shows it.

2011 MONTE ROSSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 90

International Wine Cellar

Good full, deep red. Intriguing aromas of currant, chocolate, cocoa, eucalyptus, dusty earth and tobacco leaf. Rich and fat on the palate, with flavors of strawberry, cocoa powder, mocha and earth framed by chocolatey oak and perked up by a faint green streak. This wine should be a bit more harmonious by the time it's released in the fall. – S. Tanzer

Rated (90-92)

Vinous Media

Dark red cherry, plum, smoke, tobacco, savory herbs and incense flow from the 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Monte Rosso Vineyard. This is another impressive 2011 Cabernet from Ed and Adam Sbragia. Here, too, there is plenty of depth and site-specific character, with firm, gravelly tannins that support the fruit and impart distinct mountain characteristics. – A. Galloni

2010 MONTE ROSSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 93

Wine Advocate, #206

The 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Monte Rosso Vineyard is a fabulous and highly representative wine from one of California's great heritage sites. A wine of tremendous promise (despite its considerable appeal today!), the 2010 bursts from the glass with graphite, smoke, licorice, tobacco, incense and dark fruit. The wine seems to gain volume as well as considerable richness with time in the glass. A huge, enveloping finish rounds things out in style. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2030.

I was deeply impressed with the wines I tasted from Ed and Adam Sbragia this year. These wines remain incredibly reasonably priced considering the quality of what goes in the bottle. – A. Galloni

Rated 92+

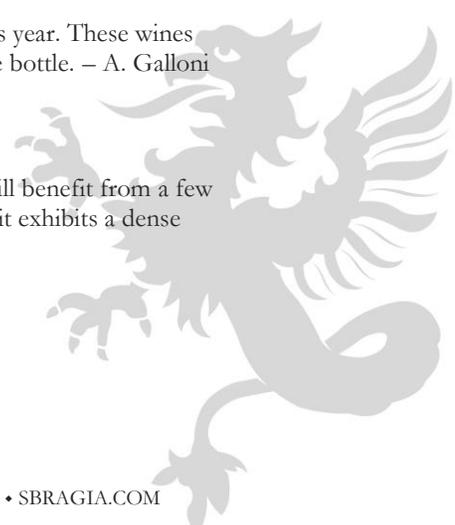
Wine Advocate, #210

The 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Monte Rosso Vineyard is a knock-out, but it will benefit from a few more years of bottle age. From the red soils of this famous Sonoma vineyard, it exhibits a dense



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ruby/purple color along with a sweet bouquet of loamy soil, black currants, black cherries and underbrush. Full-bodied, rich and moderately tannic, it should drink well for 15-20 years.
–R. Parker Jr.

2009 MONTE ROSSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 92

Wine Advocate

The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Monte Rosso Vineyard hits the palate with juicy dark berries, grilled herbs, cedar and tobacco. There is lovely purity to the fruit backed up by pure, distinctive Monte Rosso tannins. A big, powerful finish rounds things out in style. This is a reference point Sonoma Cabernet Sauvignon. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024. Ed Sbragia can be counted on for wines that deliver consistently outstanding quality and plenty of personality. His 2009 Cabernets are particularly of note. – A. Galloni

Rated 92

International Wine Report

The 2009 Sbragia Family Cabernet Sauvignon Monte Rosso Vineyard brings a ton of juicy red currant, cassis, licorice, herbs, cocoa and mineral characteristics. It shows remarkable depth and concentration while getting nice lift from the underling acidity, ending with a mineral-laced finish that is long and supple with lots of ripe fruit. The wine rested a month in seasoned French oak barrels; it was then transferred to new French oak barrels, where it aged for 24 months prior to bottling. This will be approachable early on but looks to have the stuff to last in cellar as well. 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet franc. (Best 2014-2024)

2007 MONTE ROSSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 92

The Tasting Panel

Smooth and velvety with black raspberry, cherry and earth; supple and spicy with tangy acidity and beautifully knit flavors; lush and big but in lovely balance and with a long, rich finish. – A. D. Blue

Rated 92

International Wine Cellar

Plum, currant, tobacco leaf, dried herbs and graphite on the complex nose. Like liquid rock in the mouth, with currant, licorice and woodsmoke notes enlivened by powerful minerality and well-integrated acids. Suave, mouthfilling cabernet, finishing with a firm tannic spine and sneaky length. – S. Tanzer <http://www.wineaccess.com/tanzer>

Rated 91

Wine Advocate

Possesses sweet blackberry, black cherry, dusty, loamy earthy notes intermixed with hints of spice box and unsmoked high class cigar tobacco. Full-bodied with abundant sweet tannins and loamy soil/earthy terroir notes. – R. Parker Jr.

‘Highly Recommended’

California Grapevine

Medium-dark ruby; attractive, herbal, cedary, cassis, black cherry, and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of graphite, chocolate, and green olive; medium-full to full body; forward, rich, textured, cedary, bright cherry and berry fruit flavors; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows some maturity and is enjoyable to drink now.



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Top 100 Wines of 2010
San Francisco Chronicle

Ed Sbragia's take on the venerable Monte Rosso site is as warm and cassia tinged as you'd expect, showing gorgeous huckleberry and bramble fruit. Remarkably light on its feet, with juiciness amid those stiff mountain tannins. Let this one unwind a bit, then enjoy it as a great expression of site.
– J. Bonné

2006 MONTE ROSSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 95 *Cellar Selection

Wine Enthusiast

One for the cellar. It's vibrantly rich and forward in blackberries, black cherries, plums, dark chocolate and sweet smoky new oak...It would be a pity to open it before 2012, and will last for years after.

The New California Cabernet

Wine Enthusiast

Now is the time to venture outside of Napa for Cabs of style, structure and value. – S. Heimoff

Wine Advocate

The 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Monte Rosso exhibits the earthy, loamy soil character that comes from these red clay soils. Aged two years in French wood, the tannins in this 2006 seem elevated. There is plenty of terroir, red and black currant fruit with some weedy herbs in the background. This wine needs 4-5 years of cellaring, and may ultimately merit a higher score. It should last for two decades or more. – R. Parker Jr.

Wine Spectator

Ripe, graceful and harmonious, with fleshy plum, black cherry and berry fruit shaded by loamy earth, subtle anise and cedary oak flavors. The tannins are both firm and supple, with complex fruit emerging on the finish. Best from 2010 through 2016. – J. Laube

Rated 91

International Wine Cellar

Good red-ruby. Aromas of red currant, tobacco, licorice and mint. Smooth and sweet, but serious, with good stuffing to the dark berry and mineral flavors. Finishes with youthfully firm tannins and good mineral lift. I tasted these 2006 cabernets just prior to bottling. – S. Tanzer
<http://www.wineaccess.com/tanzer>

DOUBLE GOLD

San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

Rated 90 'Very Highly Recommended'

California Grapevine

Attractive, relatively herbal, cedary, dark cherry fruit aroma with notes of bell pepper and rhubarb; full body; big, textured, cedary, intense, cassis and blackberry fruit flavors with overtones of sweet oak; full tannin... lingering aftertaste....

Rated 93

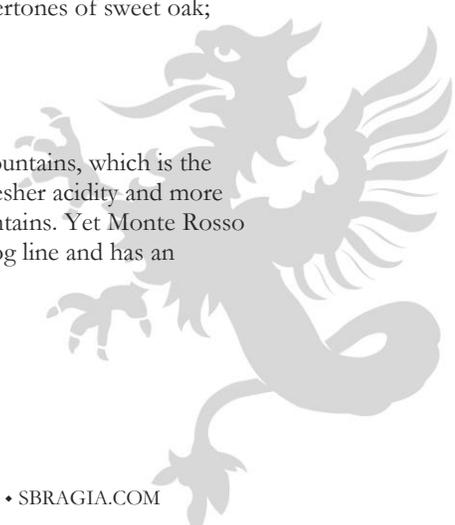
Wine Review Online

This unique vineyard site is located on the Sonoma side of the Mayacamas Mountains, which is the cooler side. The location has a profound influence on the wine, particularly fresher acidity and more red-fruited aroma than you might see in Cabs from the Napa side of the mountains. Yet Monte Rosso never has a problem with ripeness or green tannins because it sits above the fog line and has an



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extremely important southwest exposure to the sun. Sbragia's Monte Rosso is firmly structured and well balanced, with exceptional persistence of flavor, complex layers of red and black fruits, and Sbragia's trademark hint of cedar. – R. Whitley

2005 MONTE ROSSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Best of the Best – 4 stars ‘Highly Recommended’

Decanter

Rated 92 *Cellar Selection

Wine Enthusiast

Monte Rosso red wines are always big, but this may be the most intense Cabernet ever to come from that mountain vineyard. It's in keeping with the Sbragia style of extreme ripeness and oak. Almost sweet, but really dry, it erupts in black currant, chocolate and smoky oak flavors... Best after 2011. – S. Heimoff

Rated 90

Wine Spectator

The single best bottling of California Cabernet Sauvignon might not be from Napa... Ed Sbragia, who made Cabernet in Napa for 30 years and who now makes it in Sonoma, agrees that greater attention needs to be paid to farming in Sonoma to reach the next level... Other favorites include Sbragia Sonoma Valley Monte Rosso Vineyard 2005. – J. Laube

SILVER

2008 Sonoma County Harvest Fair

3 STARS ‘Excellent’

San Francisco Chronicle

Monte Rosso's red soils are at play again here, with the skilled hands of Ed Sbragia coaxing more delicacy out of this rough-and-tumble terroir. Lavender, dried herbs and perfumed blackberry dominate, with just a touch of oak that lends more structure than flavor. No shortage of deep black fruit and allspice, but with an innate brightness and focus that shows how well Sbragia's talents are matched with a fantastic vineyard. – J. Bonne

Rated 93 – Top 100 Wines of 2008

Wine Advocate

Brilliant... Exhibits a loamy, earthy character interwoven with notions of cedar, fruitcake, spice, and oodles of black currant and black cherry fruit. Full-bodied, dense, powerful, and moderately tannic, it is, by the standards of high end North Coast Cabernet Sauvignon, a very good bargain. Moreover, it will evolve for two decades or more. – R. Parker Jr.

Wineskinny.com

Deeply concentrated, with dark purple, aromatic black fruit flavors — blackberry, cherry, currant — laced with mint, tobacco and spicy vanilla. Just an overall pretty wine, with a smooth texture supported by well-integrated chalky tannins and a long finish. Delicious now and over the next 8-10 years. – R. Tinsley

Rated 90-92

International Wine Cellar

Penetrating aromas of blackberry, black cherry, licorice, graphite and eucalyptus... A strong acid spine giving the wine excellent energy. This also boasts a suppler texture than the Andolsen example and should offer early appeal... Oak-driven chocolate tannins.



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2004 MONTE ROSSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 94 *Cellar Selection

Wine Enthusiast

From the famed Monte Rosso Vineyard - It's a very fine mountain Cab and will reward aging. Should begin to be approachable by 2010, and continue developing for many more years. – S. Heimoff

Rated 90

Wine & Spirits

Starts off with oak, a cocoa richness that begins to yield scents of bergamot, and earthy beets. The texture is smooth, with a cool, racy acidity underneath. For the cellar. – J. Greene

Rated 90-92

Wine Advocate

It shows sweet, ripe, tobacco-infused black currants and loamy soil notes. Dense ruby/purple, medium to full bodied, opulent, it will be somewhat of a fleshpot wine to drink over the next 12-15+ years. - Robert Parker, Jr.

'The Ten Best Wines of 2008'

Creativeloafing.com

Monte Rosso easily makes the top five Sonoma grape vineyards, whose 100-year-old vines yield grapes Ed and Adam Sbragia craft into incredibly dense, elegant Cabernets.

5 STARS

Memphis Magazine

A seductive and elegant Cab ready to massage your weary mind. Has smooth black cherry covered in sweet chocolate, followed by lush vanilla and earthy coffee. – T. Eason

2003 MONTE ROSSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 94

Wine Advocate, WA #207- 10 Year Cabernet Retrospective Tasting, June 2013

A sensational effort, the 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon Monte Rosso Vineyard is a big wine at 14.4% alcohol. It was aged 24 months in 100% new French oak. This outstanding first growth site, previously farmed by Louis Martini and now owned by Gallo, is famous for its red soils as well as the earthy intensity of its wines. This rich, full-bodied 2003 offers up notes of volcanic soils, charcoal, blackberries, black currants and vanillin in its dense, long, authoritative personality. Having absorbed all the oak, it reveals decent acidity and an accessible style. It is capable of lasting another two decades.

The longtime, bigger-than-life winemaker at Beringer, Ed Sbragia, now produces wines under his own label. All four of his 2003s admirably demonstrate his obvious talent. –R. Parker, Jr.

Rated 91

Wine Advocate, WA#168, December 2006

The 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon Monte Rosso from the Gallo-owned vineyard is aged in 100% new French oak and is a top-flight Cabernet exhibiting elegant, spicy, loamy soil notes intermixed with red cherry and some blacker currants. The wine has good sweetness, a dark ruby/purple color, medium to full body, and good spice and earth. It should drink well for 10-15 or more years. –R. Parker, Jr.



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