



SBRAGIA

FAMILY VINEYARDS

RANCHO DEL OSO CABERNET SAUVIGNON HOWELL MOUNTAIN, NAPA VALLEY

Even before I laid eyes on it, I had a feeling I'd like the Rancho Del Oso vineyard. First there's the name – which means “ranch of the bear” in Spanish – referring to the red bear that likes to swim in the vineyard's reservoir. Then there's the owner, Betty O'Shaughnessy, a serious farmer who owns several properties in Napa Valley. Most importantly though is the site – high atop Howell Mountain at 1800 feet, with gentle slopes that keep the grapes in sunshine while surrounding them with cool mountain air. Every time I see this place, it takes my breath away. One of my favorite blocks in the northern part of the vineyard is the source of this wine.

2009 RANCHO DEL OSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 93+

Wine Advocate #204

The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Rancho del Oso Vineyard shows the characteristic salinity and tension of Howell Mountain. Dark red cherries, plums, licorice, mint and grilled herbs are all supported by insistent yet polished tannins. This is a highly intriguing wine... Anticipated maturity: 2017-2029
-A. Galloni

Rated 92

Wine Spectator

Full, persistent and pleasantly chewy, presenting a rich, milk chocolate-centered array of dark berry, plum and cedar flavors. Drink now through 2028.

Rated 94

International Wine Report

The 2009 Sbragia Family Cabernet Sauvignon Rancho del Oso Vineyard is a stunning wine. Dense and concentrated with loads of sweet cassis, herbs, chocolate and dusty minerals. This demonstrates power and finesse, structured around big polished tannins. The finish leaves you with a supple mouthful of ripe mountain fruit. This is really good right now but should hit full stride in about three or four years. The 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc was racked into small French oak barrels with thin staves, where it aged for two years prior to bottling. (Best 2015-2026)

2007 RANCHO DEL OSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 95

The Tasting Panel

Black cherry, black raspberry, astonishing licorice and vanilla – all come together in this remarkable wine; mellow toasty oak and supple texture lead to a long finish that brings out tea and floral notes; unique and exciting. – A. D. Blue

Rated 94

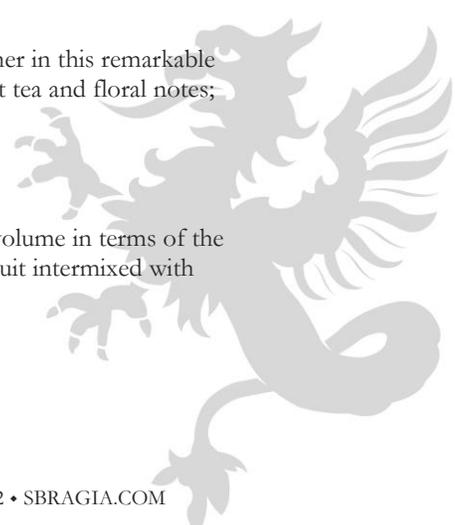
Wine Advocate

The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Rancho del Oso is a winner, with much more volume in terms of the sweetness of the aromatics and beautifully rich blackberry and black currant fruit intermixed with



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licorice, pen ink, and some spring flowers. The wine has velvety tannins, full-bodied opulence, and a rich, long finish. This should be terrific when it is released next year. – R. Parker Jr.

Rated 92

International Wine Cellar

Saturated deep ruby. Aromatic nose combines plum, cassis, dark chocolate, licorice and herbs. Deep dark fruit flavors are complicated by graphite, licorice and dried herbs, plus a hint of minerality. This shows firm acidity for Howell Mountain, along with sound ripeness and expressive aromatic character. Finishes suave and seamless, with a continuing mineral element. Much more satisfying than the 2006. – S. Tanzer <http://www.wineaccess.com/tanzer>

2006 RANCHO DEL OSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 95

Wine Enthusiast

This is the most accessible, most interesting and most compelling of Sbragia's new Cabernets. It's extraordinarily powerful in the potent, sweetly refined tannins and ripe flavors of blackberries and cassis, leading to a long, rich finish. You can drink it now, but it will age effortlessly for a good 8-10 years.

Wine Advocate

Far sweeter, richer fruit can be found in the 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Rancho del Oso... Displays loads of graphite, pen ink, crushed rock, and black raspberry and blueberry fruit in a medium to full-bodied style. Give it 3-4 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 15-20 years.

'Highly Recommended'

California Grapevine

Attractive, forward, herbal, cedary, dark currant and blackberry fruit aroma with notes of tobacco and milk chocolate; full body; forward, rich, plummy, ripe berry fruit flavors with an herbal, green olive component; medium-full to full tannin...lingering aftertaste.

Rated 95

Wine Review Online

Of the new releases of Cabernets from Sbragia, the Rancho Del Oso is the least appealing for drinking now. Just you wait, however, for this is a monster mountain Cab merely biding its time. It's rich and powerful without sacrificing elegance, and exhibits an abundance of tannin that makes immediate consumption problematic. Another three to six years in the cellar, however, will do wonders for this hefty Napa Valley Cabernet. The dominant element is ripe black fruit, with a mouthful of tannin and hints of mocha, spice and the telltale Sbragia cedar and tobacco. Those with the patience to wait will find this of the finest Cabs of vintage. – R. Whitley

2005 RANCHO DEL OSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Ranked # 54 in 'Top 100 Cellar Selections of 2009'

Wine Enthusiast

Shows classic Howell Mountain tight, hard tannins that lock down the flavors and make the wine astringent. But what flavors they are. Just detonates on the palate with massive blackberries, currants, plums, chocolate and cedar, with incredible depth and length. Desperately needs time. Best after 2011.

Rated 90

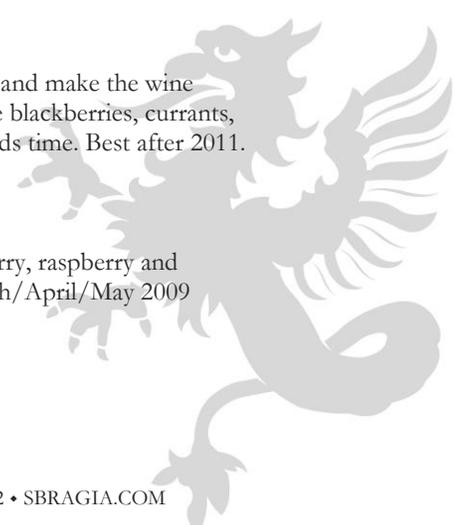
Wine News

New leather, black cherry and coffee bean aromas. Mixed flavors of black cherry, raspberry and chocolate with crisp, youthful acids. Dry finish with spicy wood tannins. March/April/May 2009



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Rated 93

Wine & Spirits

Dark currant flavors drive this mountain-grown cabernet, matched but not dominated by the bittersweet intensity of the tannins. Ed Sbragia knows how to craft cabernets with great structure, and he fills this one completely with velvet tannins, with the pungent soil character of Betty O'Shaughnessy's vineyard. It has the substance of a rich dark chocolate and the staying power of finely grown Howell Mountain cabernet. – J. Greene

Rated 92

Wine Spectator

Notable for its zesty, creamy, toasty oak, this also delivers a mix of ripe cherry, currant, anise and hazelnut. Focused, balanced, elegant and complex, ending with a long, detailed finish. Drink now through 2016. – J. Laube

Rated 94

Wine Enthusiast

2004 RANCHO DEL OSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 92

Wine Spectator

Offers fresh, pure aromas of red currant and black cherry. Smooth, even plush on the palate, with a tight focus to the flavors, firming up and flexing its tannic strength on the finish, where this ends with a loamy note. Drink now through 2013.

Rated 94

Wine Enthusiast

Those mountain tannins are here in spades, and even though they're ripe and sweet, they give the wine a powerful astringency that demands cellaring. But age will certainly reward, for the wine is huge in currant, black cherry and unsweetened chocolate flavors. Open after 2010 and the fruit will shine through in all its ripe, succulent glory.

Ranked in Top 100 Cellar Selections - 2008

Wine Enthusiast

Rated 92

Wine & Spirits

Sbragia made an impenetrable Cabernet from Rancho del Oso in '04, massive and intense, more powerful than the '03. The tannin...yields to scents of tart, wild fruit, forest cherry and pine. It's a high-risk, hi-reward candidate for the cellar - given enough time, it's fruit should take precedence, and if it does, the wine will be stunning. – J. Greene

2003 RANCHO DEL OSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 95

Wine Enthusiast

Rated 94

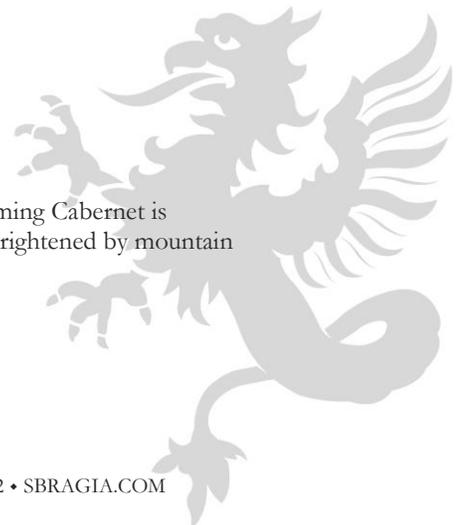
Wine & Spirits

The Best in the World of Wine: Best New Wineries (Sbragia's) top-performing Cabernet is Rancho Del Oso. The '03 has succulent black currant and blackberry flavors brightened by mountain forest scents...



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2002 RANCHO DEL OSO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Rated 95

Wine Enthusiast



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