

## 2009 Duckhorn Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon

*Napa Valley AVA, California*



This 2009 sees the tail end of nearly a decade of strong vintages for Northern California's Cabernet, whose producers had had little to complain about since 2000. This one is blended with 12% Merlot for added texture and 3% Cabernet Franc for a spicier aroma.

Duckhorn has been reinventing itself over the last decade, hiring an executive winemaker from New Zealand's warmer north island in 2003, and selling out to the family's controlling interest to a private equity firm in 2007. Yet the more things change, the more they remain the same: Duckhorn's bottlings of both Merlot and Cabernet still strive to combine a ripeness representative of California with a more old-world elegant, earthy, gamey style.

**Wonderfully fragrant with vibrant notes of mint, blackcurrant, violets and graham cracker. On the palate, blackberry and blueberry flavors mingle with cocoa and cola notes. Still offering a touch of youthful dry tannins, this is classic Cabernet character, with its firm structure, generous mouth-filling flavors and a long, satisfying finish.**

**Recommended pairings:** Baby Spinach Salad with Cheddar and Mushroom  
- AND -  
New York Sirloin and Cibo Matto's Special Steak Sauce