

American Wine Awards '07

Best New California Cabernet

BY RAY ISLE

The main thing this list suggests about the state of wine right now is that it's incredibly vibrant. One of my picks is ...the first Cabernet release from a new producer in the Santa Ynez Valley, one of California's top up-and-coming regions.

Best New California Cabernet: 2005 Star

Lane Cabernet Sauvignon - California's Santa Ynez Valley is principally associated with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, but the far eastern end, which has substantially warmer temperatures than the rest of the region, seems to be ideal Cabernet Sauvignon territory—as evidenced by this satiny, cherry-inflected wine.



Stephen Tanzer's

International Wine Cellar

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Ruby-red. Inky cherry and dark berry preserve aromas are complemented by sexy vanillin oak and baking spices. Plush dark fruit flavors verge on liqueur-like, with soft tannins adding gentle grip. Finishes with a good wallop of vanillin oak. As rich and sweet as this is, there's good structure and focus. **Excellent – recommended**