

2015 CLOS DU VAL
HIRONDELLE ESTATE
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
Review Summary



93–95 pts “Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Hironnelle Estate (a barrel sample) has wonderfully pure crushed black currants and blackberries notes with suggestions of sandalwood, cigar box, allspice and cloves plus a touch of dusty earth. Full-bodied, rich, plush and compelling in its up-front generosity, it has a firm backbone of ripe, fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing on a spicy note.”

Lisa Perrotti-Brown
Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate
October 2017

93–95 pts “Not yet bottled, the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Hironnelle Estate Vineyard looks to be fabulous. Blueberries, lead pencil shavings, exotic flowers and a hint of toasty oak all emerge from this full-bodied, fresh, focused 2015 that fills the mouth with fruit, yet is never heavy or cumbersome. Made from 100% Cabernet and raised all in new oak, it has serious potential and should last for two decades.”

Jeb Dunnuck
JebDunnuck.com
December 29, 2017

94 pts “The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Hironnelle Estate Vineyard is a dark, voluptuous beauty. Crème de cassis, pencil shavings, spice and new saddle leather give the 2015 its decidedly exotic aromatics. Time in the glass brings out some of the wine’s more floral qualities nicely. My impression is that the 2015 might have been better off with a little less time in oak. Even so, the Hironnelle is a highly attractive wine endowed with terrific focus and precision. It should provide immense pleasure over the next 10-15 years or more.”

Antonio Galloni
Vinous
December 2016



93 pts “Big and broad, with a loamy frame around warm, steeped black currant, fig and plum fruit flavors that flow through a tobacco- and violet-accented finish. Shows ample stuffing, but this has a sense of elegance overall.”

James Molesworth
Wine Spectator
March 2020

93 pts “A rich red with currants and fresh herb aromas. Some pine needles and tobacco. Full body, round and velvety tannins and a soft texture. Very polished and pretty. Impressive.”

James Suckling
JamesSuckling.com
May 23, 2018

91–94 “The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Hirondelle Vineyard is a selection from some of the best blocks on the ranch, notably those towards the back of the property. Dark and voluptuous, with tons of Stags Leap character, the 2015 is loaded with inky blue/purplish fruit, mocha, dried herbs lavender, licorice and violet overtones. Perhaps even more importantly, the 2015 has preserved quite a bit of freshness and detail for such a big wine. Dense and plush on the palate, with silky tannins and tons of persistence, the 2015 is shaping up to be a beauty.”

Antonio Galloni
Vinous
March 2018

90–93 pts “The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Hirondelle Estate is probably one of the best wines to emerge from this property in the last 40 years. Again, it is somewhat Bordeaux-like, but showcases the purity and ripe fruit of Napa more than most Clos Du Val wines have done. Deep ruby/purple with sweet crème de cassis and blue fruits, the wine has a touch of graphite, background oak, loamy soil undertones and a medium-bodied, long finish. This should drink beautifully for 10-15 years.”

Robert M. Parker, Jr.
Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate
December 2016



92 pts – Year’s Best US Cabernets and Blends “The vines at Clos du Val’s home vineyard grow in gravelly loam soils under the Stags Leap escarpment. They produced a luscious 2015, its purple-plum flavors layered with some green spice in the tannins.”

Joshua Greene
Wine & Spirits Magazine
December 2018

91 pts “Herbaceous and mineral-driven, this is an earthy, structured wine from a great site around the winery's property. Layers of dark chocolate, blueberry and tobacco give it robust flavor and contrast the soft texture of integrated tannins and oak.”

Virginie Boone
Wine Enthusiast
January 2020

Outstanding “Inky purple; aromas of molasses, myrtle and black plum. Very ripe, and somewhat opulent, this has classic Stags Leap suppleness, along with excellent depth of fruit, silky tannins and good acidity. While I prefer the traditional style of Clos du Val that was the trademark of this producer for more than 40 years, this is a beautifully made, appealing wine with an excellent sense of local terroir and with the stuffing to age for 15 plus years, perhaps peaking in 20 years. 100% new oak, but there is enough fruit to support the wood. As big a wine as this is, it is quite harmonious.”

Tom Hyland
Forbes.com
October 1, 2018