

# Decanter

## Napa Valley Cabernet 2018: Top 10 producers

Matthew Luczy, November 25, 2020

Fresh from compiling the Decanter Napa Valley Cabernet vintage report for 2018 Matthew Luczy has pulled together a list of his top 10 producers and 10 wineries to watch based on the wines tasted. Unsurprisingly the producers behind Luczy's two wines of the year – Corison and Kapcsándy – top his 'best producers' list alongside a host of wineries from across Napa's varied AVAs.

All of the estates featured in the top 10 have two or more wines in the report with some as many as six. Here's the rundown, and find the tasting note of the top-scoring wine from each producer below.

### Matthew Luczy's top 10 producers in A-Z order

- Chimney Rock
- Corison
- Dalla Valle
- Hourglass
- Kapcsándy
- Lokoya
- Larkmead
- Meteor
- **Pilcrow**
- Sodaro

### Points 95 **Pilcrow, Granite Lake, Napa Valley, Howell Mountain, 2018**

Dramatically darker and more intense on the nose, very clearly stating its rustic, Howell Mountain origins. Cigar box, charcoal and black currants on the nose. The texture is a step up in richness and concentration from the other Pilcrow Cabernets, but loses no grace, restraint and purity. A very long, powdery and persistent finish. As simply delicious as it is heady and complex.

### Points 94 **Pilcrow, Hillwalker, Napa Valley, Mt Veeder, 2018**

The woody ruggedness typical of Mount Veeder is on display, albeit through a mellow, slow-burning lens. Black cherries, pomegranates and bay laurel on the nose. The palate is satin at first, transitioning to a subtle, precise graininess on the finish. As with the entire trio of Pilcrow Cabernets, there is a frank, direct quality here that is charming and energising.

### Points 94 **Pilcrow, Ghost Block, Napa Valley, Yountville, 2018**

Right out of the gate this is strikingly pure, floral and succulent on the nose, showing aromas of fresh roses, cherry blossoms and sandalwood. Red-fruited and bright on the palate, there is an authenticity and definition throughout the texture that is refreshing and captivating. It finishes with an ethereal, clean tannin structure. A candid and genuine expression of Yountville.