

Decanter

Jonathan Cristaldi: my top fine wines of 2022



Jonathan Cristaldi

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Image: Totem Vineyard Credit: Lail Vineyards

It's no exaggeration to say that in 2022, the majority of wines I sampled – and many that I drank and enjoyed – were Napa Cabernets.

Finding focus

Above all, 2022 was a year to recalibrate and find focus in wine writing. I would be remiss not to express my gratitude to the talented editorial team at Decanter for all their support and honouring me with the responsibility of becoming Decanter's Napa correspondent.

From what I've seen and tasted living in the San Francisco Bay Area these past seven years, Napa's light – and the light from around California's wine regions – is burning brighter by the hour. The early power brokers who have shaped it are now fine-tuning it. Its aura is a seductive siren calling for a battery of new onlookers, chroniclers, vintners, and hospitality mavens, all looking for a piece of the action – some for better, some for worse.

Whatever the near future holds, that California light is shining bright.

Lail Vineyards, Georgia, Napa Valley, California, USA, 2019

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Fragrant aromas of toasted Marcona almonds, vanilla, and apricot cream. The palate is expressive and the barrel-fermentation layers in silky textures but doesn't cover the bright citrus and stone fruit....

Points 96



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