

Robb Report

FOOD & DRINK / WINE

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The 7 Best Napa Valley Sauvignon Blancs to Drink Now

For those in the mood for a sophisticated Napa white wine.

By MIKE DESIMONE AND JEFF JENSSEN 🍷

Most wine lovers know that the word *Sauvignon* comes from the French word *sauvage* and the word *blanc* simply means white, but most people don't know the reason is because when untrained vines of the variety have a distinctly unkempt appearance. Most wine experts originally thought that the grape was first discovered in Bordeaux and migrated to the [Loire Valley](#), but the reverse has been found to be true. Interestingly, it is one of the parents of the widely loved red grape Cabernet Sauvignon, with the other half of that variety's DNA contributed by Cabernet Franc.

Sauvignon Blanc is widely grown throughout France, but it has found its spiritual home in [New Zealand](#), where winemakers generally make cheap and cheery versions sporting aromas and flavors of cut grass, green herbs, green apple, melon, and even a bit of what we politely refer to as *pee pee du chat*, or cat pee.

We are thankful that French winemakers tend to lean into the more elegant, sophisticated aromatic profile of grapefruit, lemon lime, passion fruit, freshly baked bread, peach, and vanilla when making wine from Sauvignon Blanc. We're even happier to report that given the soil types, climate, and artistic style of most California winemakers, that they tend to veer towards the French style rather than New Zealand. While Napa Valley is best known for its [Cabernet Sauvignon](#) wines, if you like a sophisticated white, we suggest you give Napa Sauvignon Blanc a try. You won't be disappointed.

Lail 2021 Georgia Sauvignon Blanc Yountville Napa Valley California

Owner Robin Daniel Lail can trace her family winemaking history back to her great-granduncle Captain Gustav Niebaum of Inglenook fame. Her father, John Daniel Jr., was the owner of Inglenook from 1936 until it was sold in 1964, and Robin is now following the family tradition creating quality wines from grapes grown in Napa Valley. Fruit for her Georgia Sauvignon Blanc is grown in Yountville. Lail 2021 Georgia Sauvignon Blanc captivates you from the moment you pour it into the glass. It is golden straw colored with aromas of Granny Smith apple, lemongrass, and mandarin pith that seamlessly transition on your palate to flavors of crisp ripe apple, red grapefruit zest, and a touch of wet river rock in the finish.

