

# Wine Spectator Insider

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THE highlights in this week's edition of Wine Spectator's Insider newsletter include James Laube's official reviews of the 2006 Pinot Noirs from Kosta Browne. Laube reports that many Pinot Noir producers battled nature in 2006, and some were more successful than others. The 2006 Kosta Browne Pinots demonstrate how diligence in the vineyard pays off. Kosta Browne's 2006s are, as a group, sleeker and tighter than in previous vintages, while offering flavors that showcase 2006's cooler temperatures. They display savory berry, herb, fresh earth and mineral qualities, and may also be slower to develop. For more on the 2006 vintage for California Pinot Noir, see Laube's May 6 blog.

Also in this issue, Laube reviews the latest California Cabernets and blends thereof, including a classic-rated Cab from the Stags Leap District (which you'll find among the Hot Wines, on page 4), and Harvey Steiman leads off with eight exciting new Australian Shiraz.

## California Cabernet Sauvignon & Blends

Here's a fun parade of Cabernets, lead by Hartwell, which hit the jackpot in 2005 with both its reserve (see page 4) and Misté Hill bottlings from its Stags Leap vineyard.

Seven Stones is a new producer owned by Ron and Anita Wornick. The vineyard and wine take their name from a large statue composed of seven marble slabs on the property near the Meadowood Resort.

—James Laube

### SEVEN STONES

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2005  
94 points | \$175 | 236 cases made | Red

Rich and expressive, with ripe, potent, concentrated tiers of spicy currant, fresh earth, mineral, sage and dried berry flavors that are tight, focused and concentrated, ending with a long, persistent finish. Drink now through 2011.— J.L.