

Following are reviews of Laurel Glen Vineyard Library Vintages compiled from the following sources:

- Doug Wilder's PurelyDomesticWineReport.com
- Robert Parker's [The Wine Advocate](http://TheWineAdvocate.com)
- Stephen Tanzer's [International Wine Cellar](http://InternationalWineCellar.com) (now owned by Vinous Media)

“A New Steward At Laurel Glen - Tasting Thirty Vintages Of The Sonoma Mountain Icon”

By Doug Wilder

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THE WINES

Putting thirty years of one wine on a table is a fascinating spectacle; tasting the ones that were supposed to be ‘vintage of the century’ against those that were condemned by the critics as general failures revealed some surprising results. The winery assembled about a dozen sommeliers (several MS), and me (as the lone blogger) in the basement of **Boulevard Restaurant** (Thank you Wine Director, John Lancaster and your team for a beautiful private venue and a delicious lunch) to go through three flights of a decade each, and discuss our three favorites from each. Amazingly there wasn't much discrepancy as each individuals top three could easily have been interchanged with a couple other wines. I present my impressions below with my notes from the 2007 and 2011 tastings. It is interesting to see how wines change.

A brief key about the layout of the notes that follow:

Vineyard and Cellar notes (unedited) written by Patrick Campbell appear first in italics

2007 - My notes from January 2007 tasting with Patrick Campbell in San Francisco

2011 - My notes from February 2011 tasting with Bettina Sichel and Patrick Campbell in San Francisco

Some wines were unavailable in either tasting, and comments reflect that. A notation of NR means the wine was not showing characteristics considered measurable. **Appellation for all is Sonoma Mountain, Estate Grown**

1981 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon - Premiere release

*(A moderately good year, devoid of rainfall... good dark colors, vines in fine shape, nice crop)
Patrick Campbell vineyard and cellar notes*

2007 - Marked by a bit of herb on the nose, the palate initially seemed lean and narrow but fleshed out with some air, still showing decent acidity. DW 85

2011 - Lean, delicate nose showing a little loaminess, the palate thins out to an elegant thread DW 88

Robert Parker: 90 Points

1982 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(A difficult year, late harvest which never quite achieved maturity... good viscosity in the grapes, very big crop - too big!!) PC

2007 - Elegant feel pushing through slight earthiness in the nose. The herbal character is nicely integrated into the wine, dry finish. DW 87

2011 - Firm and still full of life, showing a little Brettiness - DW 84

1983 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon MAGNUM

(A really difficult year... threatening skies, front moving in, very acidic tasting, vines are stressed and beginning to shrivel) PC

2007 - A slight mustiness was evident on the nose. The palate is surprising in its depth and vitality. Plenty of acid. A pretty nice wine considering the tough conditions. Mature. DW 90

2011 - Not tasted

1984 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon MAGNUM

(The first of 3 fine vintages, early ripening under ideal conditions ... ripe, full, beautiful, best vineyard flavors since 1978) PC

2007 - A light earthiness on the nose with rich, dark fruit flavors. Smooth on the palate with plenty of balance. Still showing very nicely. DW 92

2011 - Corked sample NR

Robert Parker: 90 points

1985 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon MAGNUM

(A legendary year in California... beautiful, crisp, rich fruit with zero rot, fine green rachis, spicy and balanced) PC

2007 - Classic Laurel Glen - a nose of red and black fruits, with smooth balanced fruit on the palate. Sublimely elegant throughout. DW 94

2011 - Very pretty aromas, fleshy black fruit with beautiful balance and structure - DW 93

Robert Parker: 90 points, April 1995: This wine has consistently been an excellent performer. The fine Laurel Glen winery, which has made even better Cabernet Sauvignons during the decade of the nineties, fashioned a 1985 with plenty of jammy, sweet blackcurrant fruit, an element of smoke, herb, and licorice, full body, a complex, multidimensional personality, adequate acidity, and a lush, heady, glycerin and alcohol-imbued finish. The tannins appear to have completely melted away. Readers can expect well-stored examples of this fully mature Cabernet to last for at least 10-12 years.

1986 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(My favorite year of the mid-1980's... mature, soft skins, red juice, green and healthy vines) PC

2007 - Light on the palate with delicate under filled flavors. Seems to be in decline. DW 84

2011 - Excellent nose, deep and complex, mature on palate with a beautiful texture. DW 93

Robert Parker: 94 points, Aug 1996: In the second series of 1986 Cabernet Sauvignon tastings, I knew some mystery wines had been inserted. When I tasted this wine, I thought it was the 1982 Leoville Las Cases. Laurel Glen's 1986 Cabernet exhibits a youthful, dense, deep ruby/purple color with virtually no signs of age. Pure, black-cherry and cassis fruit, mineral notes, and well-integrated wood aromas leisurely emerged with coaxing. Tannic and full-bodied, as well as enormously rich, well-endowed, and

extracted, with excellent integrated acidity, and a Bordeaux-like austerity, this gorgeously pure, rich, young wine still needs another 4-5 years of cellaring. Could it possibly be a 30-year wine? A remarkable, but not unexpected showing for Laurel Glen!

The tasting notes for this section are from two single blind tastings, one conducted in May, 1996, in California, and the other in June, 1996, in Baltimore.

1987 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(I always thought the vintage was over-rated by the pundits... "nuclear winter") PC

2007 - A sentimental favorite of mine. Earth and olive tapenade in the nose. Dryness seems to dominate the mid palate with much of the fruit gone now. DW 87

2011 - As mentioned, a favorite of mine upon release - Very closed, some underlying character of ripeness with still vibrant tannin but not expressive. DW 87

Robert Parker: 91 points, Oct 1993: The 1987 Cabernet Sauvignon is another rich, intense, well-made wine from Laurel Glen. It is very dark ruby, with a full intensity bouquet of tobacco, herbs, cassis, and blackcurrants. On the palate, this wine is very concentrated with a beautiful texture, firm but soft tannins, full body, and outstanding depth and length. Anticipated maturity: Now-2000.

1988 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(A really tough vintage, but LG was one of the best of the vintage...lowest crop level ever due to very poor and protracted flowering) PC

2007 - Big fruit in the nose and smells very young. Velvet like on the palate with plenty of guts. DW 87

2011 - Light and delicate, this wine will be an eye-opener to anyone who believed the 'gloom and doom' of the critics upon release. Mature and balanced, this was nearly a unanimous choice on every Top three ballot. DW 90

Robert Parker: 90 points, Oct 1993: The 1988 is one of the leading candidates for "Cabernet of the Vintage". Dark ruby/purple, with a moderately intense, licorice, herb, and cassis-scented bouquet, this opulently styled, full-bodied, intense Cabernet Sauvignon coats the palate with viscous, rich flavors, and has a finish that must last for nearly 40 seconds. Laurel Glen made a strict selection in 1988, and the commitment to excellence by proprietor Patrick Campbell is evident in this generously constituted, impressive, albeit expensive Cabernet. Anticipated maturity: Now-2003.

1989 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(Dodging rainfall throughout harvest. Brett in the cellar... very juicy berries, swelled by rainfall) PC

2007 - Earthy and heavy, in decline. DW 77

2011 - A little brett on the nose, but tasting fresher than 4 years ago; a pleasant wine from a difficult vintage DW 86

1990 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

There were no notes from the 2007 tasting. It may have been missing, removed from the flight as flawed, etc.

2011 - Dark fruit in the nose, the palate seems a little flat at first but develops more dimension with air - DW 91

Robert Parker: 95 points, Oct 1993: The 1990 Cabernet Sauvignon offers an even more spectacular nose than the 1991 (rated 93), largely because it has enjoyed an additional year of evolution. Smoky, cassis, herb, sweet, leathery, meaty aromas are as profound as in the 1991. The wine is even more unctuous and flattering. This full-bodied, gorgeously put together wine should be approachable young but last for up to 15-20 years.

1990 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve MAGNUM

(A fabulous vintage, trouble-free and with perfect ripeness and balance... pure, delicious, balanced, sweet, very rich, fruit; v.v.v. impressive!! slightly sauvage, meaty, pepper/spice, blackstrap molasses, tannins firm and rich, plenty of acid) PC

2007 - Bold aromatics of black fruit. The palate shows excellent polished black fruits with well-developed acidity. DW 95

2011 - Probably the wine of the day - very polished nose of creamy black fruits showing excellent texture on the palate. In essence this wine hasn't changed a bit! DW 95

1991 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(A very long, cold year; fine maturity, but not up to 1990 in quality, This is the year many innovative winemakers decided to let brettanomyces run its course in the barrels in order to stabilize the wine and thus avoid a heavy filtration. This was a mistake, as many of the wines from this vintage developed, not surprisingly, brettanomyces which lingered in the resulting wine... excellent balance, maturity, slight tinge of greenness) PC

2007 - Strong acidity, very tightly round Not rated

2011 - A little tobacco and herb in the nose, this wine is more developed than previously, pleasantly delicate on the palate DW 87

Robert Parker: 93 points, Oct 1993: The 1991 Cabernet Sauvignon reveals an opaque dark ruby color, as well as a huge nose with aromas reminiscent of leg of lamb cooked over a wood fire and doused with Provencal herbs. The gorgeous, big, meaty, herbaceous, sweet, black fruit aromas and flavors are followed by super-ripe, rich, luxurious flavors. There is plenty of tannin to provide the framework, and the result is one of the most impressive wines I have yet to taste from this superb estate.

1992 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(One of the great vintages in California. Perfect pre-harvest weather, excellent maturity, higher than normal sugars for the time... warm, ripe, full, delicious, balanced fruit; ditto in wine, slightly dry tannins that will need time to resolve) PC

2007 - Dark fruit with plenty of youth. Nice tannins. The fruit is holding up beautifully. DW 91

2011 - Not showing a bloody thing, closed up tight as a drum. DW 80

Robert Parker: 94-96 points, Apr 1994: Another dazzling effort from Patrick Campbell, this gorgeously opulent, voluptuously-textured, super-concentrated wine already exhibits an enticingly complex bouquet of chocolate, cedar, herbs, cassis, and damp, woody aromas. Full-bodied, with the sweet, juicy, succulent fruit that is the vintage's trademark, this wine possesses low enough acidity and sweet enough tannin to be approachable young, but it should keep for two decades.

1993 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve MAGNUM

(A cooler year with some green tones in the fruit that have taken many years to resolve... good maturity at a lower scale, fine balance, vineyard in good shape, no rot or shrivel; brix may have exceeded maturity; excellent darkness and balance, but without the zing of a great vintage) PC

2007 - The wine is heavy and dull, very dried out. DW 75

2011 - It is like this time around the wine is completely changed; chocolate, red fruits and a hint of plum and drinking very young - could be mistaken for an '03. DW 92

Robert Parker: 94-96 point, Apr 1995, for non-Reserve LGV Cabernet: This blockbuster, backward 1993 Cabernet Sauvignon rivals Girard's Reserve as one of the most powerful, tannic wines of the vintage, but there is more sweetness and a higher level of concentration and ripe fruit in the Laurel Glen offering, making its aging potential less risky. This is a huge, massive, herb, blackcurrant/black-cherry, smoky, chocolatey wine with gobs of fruit, eye-popping extract levels, and mouthsearing tannin. Based on this barrel sample, my best guess for the wine's anticipated maturity is between 2002-2025. Impressive! But patience is definitely required.

Laurel Glen has been producing one dazzling effort after another, especially since 1990. The wines are agonizingly difficult to find in the marketplace.

1994 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(Another great year, the even years of the 1990s were terrific and the odd years more problematic with the exception of 1999...balance, rich, full, dense, complex; wine follows vineyard notes; a terrific vintage) PC

2007 - Nice aromatics followed by excellent flavors, chocolate, black cherry and spice. Very nice bottle of wine. DW 95

2011 - Coffee and fleshy black fruits in the nose. Very harmonious on the palate with great acidity. Hasn't lost a step. DW 94

Robert Parker: 92-94 points, Apr 1996: Laurel Glen is one of California's most admirable operations, and its estate Cabernet Sauvignon is at the top of the qualitative hierarchy. The 1994 reveals an opaque purple color, and a tight but promising nose of jammy black fruits, spice, earth, and a whiff of Provencal herbs. Full-bodied, with layers of chewy, fleshy, ripe fruit, this highly-extracted, moderately-tannic, blockbuster Cabernet should prove to be accessible when released. That being said, this wine should be cellared for 4-5 years and drunk over the following 15-20.

1995 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(A wine that has taken years to develop. Originally it was rather hard, like a St. Estephe. Another "nuclear winter" like 1987, due to forest fires...no rot or shrivel; strangely as brix rose above 22 brix, maturity seemed to slip away. Higher than normal acid levels, medium

complexity. Weaker vineyards are showing green flavors) PC

2007 - Smooth aromas, the heat seems to be a problem in this wine. Ends up quite dry on the palate. DW 84

2011 - This bottle seemed somewhat awkward and borderline flawed - NR

1996 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(A very hot summer and end of season heat wave and subsequent heavy marine layer resulted in a very fine vintage, which has taken a decade to come around... vines in fine shape, no rot or shrivel; very high quality fruit, jammy and intense, thick, delicious, very complex, impressive) PC

2007 - Excellent structure for a 10-year-old wine. Still tastes fresh and youthful. DW 91

2011 - Bright red fruit nose, a very pretty wine with great finesse and structure. DW 92

1997 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(Another year the press rated highly, but which I was never really fond of. The wines of the vintage were, I thought, ample, and fruit forward without the underlying intensity to hold the up-front flavors... beautiful ripeness, but a bit cooked and over-the-top flavors. No rot, seemingly not enough time on the vine to allow full maturity; this may be a flashy wine; jammy, full, rich, but a bit simple?) PC

2007 - I think it is holding up remarkably well. Very ripe and smooth aromas, showing a vital richness on the palate with excellent structure and dusty tannins. DW 93

2011 - Still a solid core of fruit in the nose with very well integrated fruit on the palate. Tannins are a little chalky. Maybe needs another ten years! DW 93

1998 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(The latest vintage to date [harvested 10/22 - 10/29] and a year to try the winemaker's patience. a very long and cool year that took a great deal of editing to make a good Laurel Glen [producing lowest yield ever] ... extremely varied maturity levels among the various blocks, some blocks green and scant aromas, others with dark red fruit at perfect maturity) PC

2007 - Bright and delicate nose. A pretty wine that seems to show a bit of elegance but fairly light. DW 89

2011 - Bright nose showing some tea-like character, but creamy and balanced on the palate. DW 90

1999 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(A wonderful year with an Indian summer. The first year we really paid attention to acid levels and just let the sugars rise to the levels necessary to achieve acid balance - around 24.4 brix... extensive green harvest, very late spring, very selective pickings. 5% shrivel, lots of dried and fallen leaves. Very high quality, very rich, huge and delicious) PC

2007 - Dark fruit nose with some earth. Excellent structure to the palate. DW 91

2011 - Showing very well - balanced fruit, nice texture on the palate. One of my favorite vintages of all time. DW 91

Robert Parker: 88 points, Jun 2002: This dense ruby/purple-colored 1999 reveals scents of earth, licorice, cassis, and spice. The wine is firm, structured, and medium-bodied, with austere tannin, and impressive aromatics as well as attack. If the tannin softens and the wine fleshes out, it may merit 90 points. My guess is that it will always remain somewhat austere.

2000 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(A modest, but very pretty wine; not a cocktail wine...overall seems quite ripe for the brix level. nice balance, a year to pick at lower sugars? thick skins and small berries; some rain and coolness prior to harvest) PC

2007 - Smooth and creamy showing very nice fruit. Anise, cherry and earth, DW 91

2011 - A little mushroomy loaminess in the nose, but immediate depth is notable on the palate. A very pleasant wine. DW 90

2001 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(One of the all-time great vintages. Elegance and style with a rich underbelly. Avg sugar: 24.6 brix... vines in perfect shape, extensive green thinning; dark red juice, balance, should be a great vintage) PC

2007 - Chocolate and spice box with very pretty fruit. Shows excellent structure. DW 92

2011 - From one of the top vintages of the early century, it is uncharacteristically backwards and closed on the nose revealing beautiful, fleshy fruit in the mouth. Does it just need more time? DW 90

2002 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(Another great vintage... leaves drying out, full maturity, many passes through vineyard to remove raisins and sub-standard clusters. great potential) PC

2007 - Rich, bright aromas with a solid flavor profile of ripe balanced black fruits. DW 92

2011 - Somewhat backward right now with very young flavor characteristics. A touch of heat as well. DW 89

2003 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(A good year with very little Laurel Glen made. Rigorous selection of lots in the cellar... lots of vine desiccation, very selective picking. Best lots are thick and delicious. Average harvest brix at 24.6) PC

2007 - Very tight on the nose and palate. Needs time to settle down. DW 88

2011 - It has opened up to be a gorgeous, supple wine. Beautiful throughout with an excellent core of fruit and good tannins DW 93

Stephen Tanzer: 90+ points, May 2006: Good bright ruby-red. Black cherry, cassis, licorice and minerals on the nose, with hints of band-aid and mint. A bit riper than the Counterpoint, but still a tad tart, with the blackcurrant and mint flavors firmed by slightly spiky acidity. Here the tannins are broader and sweeter than those of the Counterpoint. Patrick Campbell considers 2003 a cooler than average vintage and told me he did a lot of "editing" to come up with this flagship bottling. This may well merit a higher score with bottle aging.

2004 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(Outstanding year, big sugars, full ripeness, excellent balance) PC

2007 - Excellent, deep rich creamy nose, sweet and ripe on the palate. DW 92

2011 - The nose is a little stunted and dull. The palate has plenty to like with deep, rich flavor profile. DW 90

Stephen Tanzer: 92 points, May 2007: Deep ruby. Pungent, mineral-accented cherry and cassis aromas, with herb and espresso accents. Ripe dark fruit flavors are complicated by iron and sassafras, with a deeper, earthier quality coming on with air. A brooding, deeply concentrated wine, with impressive power and lingering notes of dark cherry and candied licorice. Give this some air.

2005 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(Very fine year, though cooler. Excellent balance and complexity) PC

2007 - Dark tannic nose with some green firmness. Needs time. DW 87

2011 - Rich and ripe on the nose, a very pretty wine with some firm tannin and a little herb. DW 91

Stephen Tanzer: 92 points, May 2008: Inky ruby color. Strikingly seductive, expressive bouquet offers kirsch, blackcurrant, raspberry and fresh floral scents. Suave and silky, offering deep but energetic red and dark fruit flavors and terrific mineral lift. Maintains its focus through the long, sappy finish. Really lovely wine, with the depth and balance to reward extending cellaring.

2006 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

(could be the vintage of the century!!) PC

2007 - Way too young to evaluate. NR

2011 - Still not showing much NR

Stephen Tanzer: 93 points, May 2009: Inky ruby. An expansive bouquet displays flamboyant dark berry compote, cherry-cola, licorice and dried rose. Palate-staining cassis and kirsch flavors are framed by silky tannins and gain an exotic candied floral quality with air. For such a deeply concentrated wine, this is strikingly lithe and precise. The finish strongly echoes the red fruit and floral notes and clings impressively. Patrick Campbell told me that he is paying much more attention to acidity these days "because the last thing we need to worry about is getting enough sugar."

2007 Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon

2007 - Not tasted

2011 - Beautiful nose, very forward and creamy, polished with spectacular fruit, DW 94

Stephen Tanzer: 93+ points, May 2010: Glass-staining ruby. Pungent, assertively spicy scents of red- and blackcurrant, licorice, pipe tobacco and cocoa powder, plus a sexy floral quality. Broad and pliant but focused, offering sweet red and dark berry flavors, a candied cherry note and an exotic rose pastille nuance. There's a spine of minerality here that keeps the sweet fruit and floral flavors in check and adds lift and cut to the long, spicy finish. Very young but has the depth and balance to reward at least a decade of patience.

2009 Laurel Glen Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

vinous

93_{pts}

Laurel Glen Vineyard 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma Mountain

Sonoma, Sonoma

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

Deep ruby. Intense, smoke- and spice-accented dark fruit and licorice scents are enlivened by a sexy floral nuance. Chewy, penetrating cherry and cassis flavors show impressive depth and power and pick up a cola note with air. Dusty tannins give grip to a long, sweet, focused finish. This cabernet, which is now made under the oversight of David Ramey, should age slowly and gracefully. (JR)

Stephen Tanzer, May 2013

2010 Laurel Glen Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

vinous

92_{pts}

Laurel Glen Vineyard 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma Mountain

Sonoma, Sonoma

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

Deep ruby. Ripe cherry and blackcurrant aromas are lifted by peppery spice and floral notes, with a hint of spicecake in the background. Smooth and fleshy on the palate, offering round dark berry compote flavors that become spicier with air. Leading with its fruit today and showing very good depth. Finishes sweet and very long, with slowly building velvety tannins. (JR)

Stephen Tanzer, May 2014

Robert Parker: 92+ points, Dec 2013: The saturated ruby/purple-colored 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate (100% Cabernet Sauvignon; just under 1,000 cases produced) was aged 30 months in French oak (50% new). It reveals an attractive, tightly knit nose of forest floor, blackberries and black currants, a rich, full-bodied mouthfeel, and plenty of structure, tannin, depth and richness. Clearly built for long-term cellaring, this textbook mountain Cabernet Sauvignon should be consumed between 2017 and 2030. It is the finest Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon I have tasted in over a decade.

2011 Laurel Glen Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

Wine & Spirits: 95 points and 100 Best Wines of 2015: Rainy and unseasonably cold, the 2011 vintage wasn't a year for beginners, but for better or worse it was Bettina Sichel's first vintage at Laurel Glen, after she purchased the property from Patrick Campbell. In March of that year she brought in Phil Coturri to manage the vineyard, perched on a saddle of volcanic soil above the fog line yet sheltered from the coastal wind, did manage to fully ripen, just later than normal. The final grapes were harvested on November 1. Sonoma Mountain is one of California's cooler areas for cabernet, so you might be surprised at how expansive this wine feels. Made by Randall Watkins, with input from David Ramey, this is tight with mineral tannins and flashes of minty black-currant tang. With a day of air, the tannins turn more supple and the floodgates open into a clean line of cassis flavor that's driven by fresh acidity, energizing a wine with the lilting complexity of a string quartet, scents of violet and Christmas spices and bay-infused meat stock intertwining in a finish that goes on for minutes. Give this ten years in the cellar; it's a classical mountain cabernet with a profound structural integrity, build to last.

2012 Laurel Glen Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

Robert Parker: 95 points, March 2016: The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate is a small cuvée of only 1,006 cases harvested October 6-15, 2012. The wine was aged in 50% new French oak. The history of the site is ancient, with vines having first been planted in the 1880's. Beautiful blueberry and blackberry fruit jump from the glass of this dense ruby/purple wine. Full-bodied and ripe with sweet tannin, terrific lushness and beautiful purity and density, this is a super-strong effort from Laurel Glen. Drink it over the next 20-25 years.