

# Wine & Spirits

## Year's Best US Cabernet Blends

### 93 | Bravante

**2013 Howell Mountain Napa Valley Trio** This tastes more like a Howell Mountain wine than a specific variety; in fact, it's three: cabernet sauvignon, merlot and cabernet franc grown at two estate vineyards—Stone Ridge, a southwest-facing hillside of volcanic rock, and Black Oak, with cabernet sauvignon on a ridgetop and franc facing north. It's a powerful wine, with concentrated blue fruit and black raspberry flavors. While tannins carry the firmness of the mountain's volcanic rock, they also have a mellow side, so their brisk intensity doesn't get in the way of the fruit, supporting it and extending its flavors for minutes after each sip. *Reviewed by Joshua Greene.*

