

## 2014 NAPA SIGNALS A NEW ERA OF CLASSICISM

Friday, January 27, 2017



**On top of the world at Continuum Estate's Sage Mountain Vineyard on Pritchard Hill.**

Last week I drank a bottle of 1979 Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve. The wine was striking, and it immediately reminded me of some of my experiences earlier in the month when I tasted more than 250 Napa reds — mostly cabernet sauvignon from the excellent 2014 vintage. It's a year that proves Napa is now entrenched in a new era of classicism, whereby wines expand on the linear definition of reds of the past while drawing on the precision and fruitiness of today. Perhaps what distinguishes 2014 above all is that all the reds show their true character driven by respective terroirs and microclimates.

### **CONTINUUM SAGE MOUNTAIN VINEYARD 2014**

**Score: 99**

Fabulous aromas of blueberries, blackcurrants, sage and mint. Lead pencil and graphite, too. Full body and ultra-fine tannins that are slowly transformed to ripe and beautiful fruit. Super polished and textured. Great finish. Drink in 2022, but it's hard not to drink now. This harkens back to the great Mondavi reserves of the 1970s in texture and construction.