

Latest Wine Tastings

William Kelley's top 10 American fine wines of 2015

William Kelley
February 2, 2016

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William Kelley, Decanter contributor and American wine expert, muses over the top wines he tasted during 2015. An envious list for any wine lover.

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Read Decanter's expert tasting note, rating and drinking window for Kalin Cellars Chardonnay Cuvée LD, Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County, USA 1993.



Overall rating:

POINTS 96

Drink: 2015-2025 **Grape Variety:** Chardonnay

Producer: Kalin Cellars

TAGS: Fine Wine Vintage 1993

This product is featured in: William Kelley's top 10 American fine wines of 2015.

Kalin Cellars Chardonnay Cuvée LD, Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County, USA 1993

Another 'stealth cuvée' from Kalin Cellars, California's most idiosyncratic winery, this Chardonnay spent an amazing twenty-two months sur lie—something that used to be common in Burgundy but is distinctly contrarian in an age where cash flow is often a priority. The wine is simply stunning, with a lovely nose of pear, tangerine oil, marzipan, iodine, honey, and a hint of smoke; which is followed by a crisp, glossy and very refined palate impression.

Alc 13.8%

Price N/A UK/USA

Taster William Kelley

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Kalin Cellars Pinot Noir Cuvée Billon, Alexander Valley, Sonoma County, USA 1994.



Overall rating:

POINTS **98**

Drink: 2015-2025

Producer: [Kalin Cellars](#)

TAGS: [Vintage 1994](#)

This product is featured in: [William Kelley's top 10 American fine wines of 2015.](#)

Kalin Cellars Pinot Noir Cuvée Billon, Alexander Valley, Sonoma County, USA 1994

The best North American Pinot Noir I've ever tasted, husband-and-wife team Terry and Frances Leighton produced only two barrels of this magical wine to commemorate the death of tonnelier Gaston Billon, one of Burgundy's great artisanal barrel makers. The wine soars from the glass in a blaze of cocoa powder, rich earth, cinnamon, violets and lovely red-black fruit tones—a nose of kaleidoscopic complexity. On the palate the wine is seamless, vibrant and effortlessly balanced, evoking a top Côte de Nuits grand cru—the only standard against which it can be measured.

Alc 13.7%

Price N/A UK/USA

Taster William Kelley