

Educated Guess

2005
Napa Valley
Cabernet Sauvignon

EXCELLENT!

Wine Spectator

AN EXCELLENT
NAPA CABERNET FOR \$20

James Laube Unfined | Posted: Jan. 3, 2008

Napa Valley's 2005 bumper grape crop has created plenty of opportunities. Producers can select their finest wines for their top labels and discard wines that don't fit into those blends. There's often lots of good wine that doesn't fit in those cuvées, which is where the opportunities lie.

Roots Run Deep winery is a new company based in Yountville focusing on high-quality Napa wines at affordable prices. All of its wines will retail for \$20 or less, which sounds like something out of the 1980s. Yesterday in my regular blind tasting I came across RRD's 2005 Educated Guess Cabernet (\$20, 18,000 cases), **AN EXCELLENT WINE THAT OFFERS RICH, SPICY PURE NAPA CABERNET FLAVORS AT A PRICE WHERE YOU CAN AFFORD TO BUY A CASE.** With the 2006 vintage, a Napa Chardonnay and Pinot Noir will join the lineup, with about 3,000 cases of each.

Owner Mark Albrecht and winemaker Barry Gnekow (who's made wine for Hahn, 7 Deadly Zins, Old Ghost and Cycles Gladiator) tapped Beckstoffer Vineyards in Rutherford for Cabernet Sauvignon, purchased as finished wine, and the Napa Wine Co. in Oakville for Merlot. The wines are made at Napa Wine Co. ■

93 POINTS!

JUST WINE POINTS WEEKLY
NOVEMBER 2007

GOOD VALUE!



DECEMBER 2007

Distinct ripeness may be the dominant theme here, but this fairly full wine [offers] ripe cherry fruit as a counterpoint to its ongoing themes of chocolate and caramelly oak. It avoids the coarseness and heat that is almost a given in very ripe wines, and its richness makes it a good choice for pairing up with pot roasts and heartier stews. **GOOD VALUE!** ■

