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Taste Tests

Twist Offs

Surprisingly good screw-top vinos. Yes, *screw-tops*.

BY MICHAEL KAPLAN

PITY THE POOR SCREW-TOP WINE. Unfairly maligned, frequently underestimated, wines without corks too often get classified as third-rate plonk. Years ago, this may have been the case, but no longer. Many well-regarded wines — originating in vineyards from Napa to New Zealand to Switzerland — are now topped with screw caps. Oenophiles have taken notice. Swirling, sipping, and approving, they've learned to think beyond the cork.

As summer settles in, high-quality screw-top wines become **particularly appealing for picnics and the like**. A couple of wine-savvy friends and I recently sampled the newest screw-top varieties and came up with these as our five favorites.





2007 Cade Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Decidedly not for daily consumption, Cade's cabernet tastes **intense and condensed**. It's a terrific wine, very rich, and designed to complement the elite cabs produced at sister property PlumpJack. Cade's vineyards are up in Northern California's Howell Mountain, at elevations running as high as 1,700 feet. Nestled above the clouds, grapes there get lots of sun, which results in an elegant wine, **similar to a fine Bordeaux**. I'm told that Cade's estate cabernet is flexible enough to go with duck and venison. 750 mL, \$126; cadewinery.com