

# HIDDEN RIDGE



## COMING AROUND ON CALIFORNIA WINE?

Eric Arnold, Blog Posted May 4, 2010

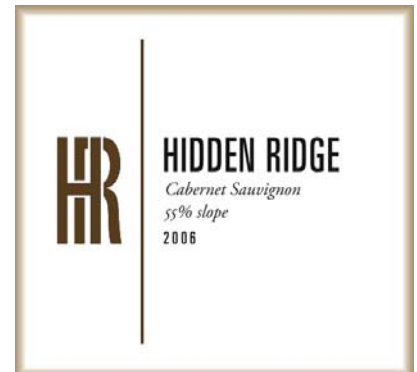
...I've long lived firmly in the camp that believes California wines all taste alike. They're big, rich, ripe, oaky, sweet, and have enough alcohol to launch the space shuttle into orbit...Believe it or not, I'm starting to come around a little...A few of the California wines that have landed on my desk recently have been surprisingly balanced, not insanely alcoholic and quite enjoyable to drink.

### HIDDEN RIDGE

This is a relatively new player that doesn't fetch a particularly high price, in part because there's no county designation appearing on the wine's label (a name to trade on, as it were), since the vineyard sits high in the mountains that straddle the Napa-Sonoma county line.

At \$40, it's still a pricey cabernet, but **is just as good as plenty of others that sell for double or triple the price.** The 2006 vintage I tasted was a big, ripe red that's somewhat sweet-tasting, but has a very good tannic mouth feel to help balance it out. Stereotypical candied California cabernet aromas? Galore. But there's some nice acidity, and it isn't overly oaky, though the alcohol (14.9%) does make its presence known.

What's endearing about it, though, is that there are --dare I say it-- signs of restraint here, the most obvious being the price. **Wines grown in the same general area tend to cost significantly more.** If you're still not sure about this one and just want a taste, you're in luck: The winery's owners claim this cabernet is being added to the by-the-glass program at several Morton's Steakhouses. **Belly up to the bar and give it a try before committing to a bottle.** Eric Arnold, May 4, 2010



Hidden Ridge Vineyard 55% Slope

For more information about Hidden Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon visit [www.vintagepoint.com/hiddenridgetrade](http://www.vintagepoint.com/hiddenridgetrade)