

## Wine Down with Spec's Episode: Block Series Cabernets with James Barlow, CSW

by Collin Williams

What's more important to you as a wine consumer: a great looking bottle of wine with mediocre juice, or a fantastic wine with a simple designed label? I'm betting you would be willing to buy the first choice once, but it would be option #2 that would keep you coming back for more!

Too often we see this scenario play out. Just as hot sake is served to mask the impurities in the beverage, some wineries will try to over-hype a label design in order to compensate for the lackluster juice inside. Knowing this, you can then trust that Spec's has your best interests at heart.

We are in constant pursuit of great tasting wines to bring to you every day. Sometimes these wines have great packaging which can only add to their appeal. However, with our team of experienced and educated wine buyers we comb through an endless bounty of wine options in the world and look for the best to put on our shelves. These endeavors can sometimes lead us to break from the normal path of mass-marketed brands and instead look for those great wine companies that simply want the juice to speak for itself.

Thus, the creation of the Block Series Cabernets! Years ago, we found these wonderful selections of wines that fit the bill for our argument. Unassuming by the wine connoisseur standards, these wines form a collection of some of the best juice from the best selection of vineyards in California/the Napa Valley. Always popular, the Block Series Cabernets change numbers with each new bottling, dependent upon the area of grape harvest and vintage.

Check out our next episode of Wine Down with Spec's where I sat down with James Barlow, CSW from our Spec's Store Woodlands location. We talked about our Block Series Cabernet Wines and what makes them great and unique. These wines are amazing values because you are paying for the juice – not the label!


### Block 949 Cabernet Sauvignon Knights Valley 2009 \$19.94 cash

This Cabernet is grown from grapes in Knights Valley, situated at the base of Mount St. Helena between the Napa and Alexander valleys. It displays balance, massive structure, length and elegance with fruit aromas of black cherry and blackberry, and spicy notes of clove.

### Block 947 Cabernet Sauvignon Calistoga 2009 \$19.94 cash

Bigger in weight and with a more pronounced note of strawberry and blackberry flavor, this wine sourced from one of Napa's northern areas is a great wine to define the flavor profiles of the valley. Full of great structure, drink this wine with a big steak, or on its own.

### Block 945 Cabernet Sauvignon Calistoga 2009 \$19.94 cash

With this series, the Block 945 comes in a heftier bottle, possibly a prelude to the style of Cabernet that is inside the bottle. Big, well structured with bold tannins, the 945 can be consumed immediately but will definitely benefit from decanting or breathing. Think of this one as the big brother to the other two options. 

<http://www.youtube.com/specs1962#p/a/u/0/iEArvJqax58>



<http://www.facebook.com/Specs1962>



[youtube.com/specs1962](http://youtube.com/specs1962)



Please email me at [collinwilliams@specsonline.com](mailto:collinwilliams@specsonline.com) with feedback.

