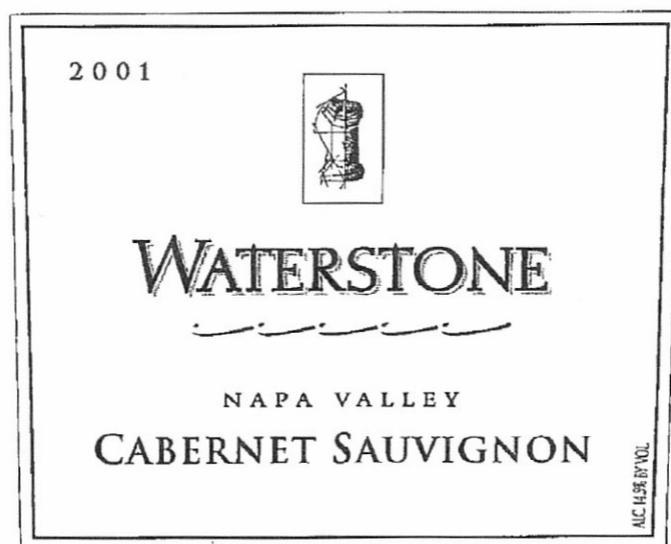


Wine Spectator

December 15, 2003



87 **Waterstone**
Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2001
\$20
1829 cases made

Rustic in style, with a dense, murky core of currant, earth, iron, anise and cedary oak flavors. Young and a bit awkward, it nonetheless is concentrated and structured and at this price is hard to beat. Best from 2004 through 2011. — J.L.

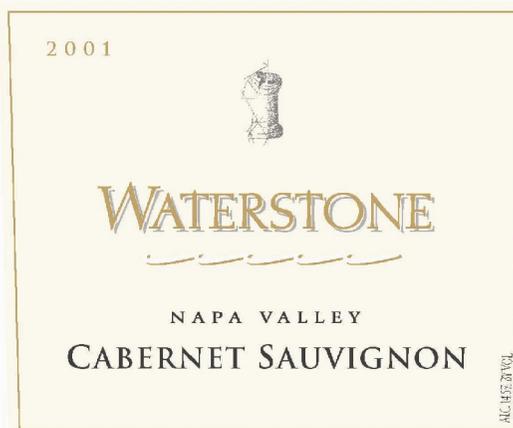
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Berries, cherries and chocolate 2001 Waterstone Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

CHRIS KNAP
Register columnist
WINE
Thursday, July 8, 2004



I first read about this wine in David Sokolin's wine bulletin.

Never heard of Sokolin? Or Waterstone?

Not surprising

Sokolin is a 70-year-old Bridgehampton, N.Y., fine-wine broker.

Waterstone is a small Napa boutique — with neither vineyards nor its own winery — that specializes in buying grapes and juice from high-end sources, fermenting them in leased facilities, and selling at killer prices.

That's the case with Waterstone's 2001 Napa Cabernet, a blend of 82% Cab, 12 percent Merlot, 4 percent Cab Franc and 2 percent Malbec.

Supposedly this juice came from a high-end cult Cabernet maker that left these barrels out of the final blend. The grapes come from western hillside vineyards in the Oakville-St. Helena region. Beyond that we don't know: Winemaker Philip Zorn says he signed a six-page nondisclosure agreement in order to get this stuff.

Their legal mumbo-jumbo, your gain.

At a \$20 list price — which more typically gets you a sturdy, tannic, nondescript wine — you will be blown away. Cedar (French oak) and earthy aromas precede highly extracted blackberry and black cherry fruit, with hints of chocolate and tobacco and well-married tannins on the finish.

Absolutely delicious.

Rating: 4 stars (out of 5)

Varietals: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec

Region: Napa Valley

Price: \$25 at www.puntwines.com/; \$26.49 at D. Sokolin Co., (800) 946-3947 or www.sokolin.com; also by phone from the winery in Napa, (707) 257-6796.