



2023 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon

95 points

Baldacci's estate-grown offering from the Stella Knight Vineyard is a striking expression of Diamond Mountain District's rugged, volcanic terroir, delivering a Cabernet Sauvignon of real intensity and mountain-fruit character. It opens with dense blackberry, black cherry, and cassis, quickly joined by more brooding notes of crushed rock, dried lavender, and a distinct volcanic minerality that immediately signals the wine's high-elevation origins. On the palate, this is a wine built on structure and grip, firm, muscular tannins reflect the steep, well-drained slopes of Diamond Mountain. There's a wild, untamed quality here that distinguishes it from the more polished valley-floor Cabernets, with notes of dark chocolate, espresso, and dried herbs weaving through the mid-palate alongside a persistent sense of energy and lift. The finish is long and mineral-driven, closing with dusty tannins, black fruit, and a savory complexity. This is a Cabernet that rewards patience, while it shows real promise now, its structure and concentration suggest it will continue to develop and soften over the next decade, ultimately revealing even greater nuance and integration. A compelling, terroir-driven wine from one of Diamond Mountain's most distinctive sites.

- *International Wine Report*
September 2026