

CAKEBREAD CELLARS

Dancing Bear Ranch 2018

95 POINTS

Year's Best Cabernet Sauvignon

Stephanie Jacobs makes this wine from Cakebread's estate vineyard that rises up a volcanic ridge above the fog line, topping out at an elevation of 1,900 feet. Her 2018 is the third exceptional showing in a row for Dancing Bear, and the best we've tasted so far, transforming Howell Mountain's volcanic power into textural grace. The tannins in the wine are fascinating, a weave of rocky soil and oak character that expresses the wine's intensity with an energy that continues long after each taste. There are floral notes, coffee-bean elements of oak, and black fruit tones, but they are all minor players in a wine that builds its voluptuous richness from the rocky ground.

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