



Big Deal Reds – By Fredric Koepfel, Bigger Than Your Head

“**Yount Ridge EPIC** is epic indeed, a monument to both the dimensions and nuances the grape can attain in its perfect environment in a great year. Probably the best Cabernet wine I tasted in 2017. A true flagship wine of tremendous presence and significance, the **Yount Ridge Cellars Epic Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2014**, Napa Valley, aged 20 months in French oak, 70 percent new barrels. The color is intense dark ruby shading to a transparent rim; right upfront are elements of penetrating graphite minerality and burnished oak, but after a few minutes in the glass, those aspects become more integrated, making room for an astonishing array of sandalwood and bergamot, lavender and candied violets, with concentrated black currant and blueberry

fruit taking on a slightly resinous character of cedar and tobacco, ancho chili and sage. It feels ecclesiastical on the palate, with its cool, dusty, polished old wood nature and its warm incense-like spices, but make no mistake, this wine’s deeply-rooted rock-ribbed tannins could support mountains. More time in the glass brings out notes of poached raspberries, underbrush and dried porcini; the weight on the palate is lithe, supple and momentous, all these qualities adding up to a finish of Olympian austerity and dimension. 14.7 percent alcohol. Try from 2020 or ’22 through 2034 to ’38. Winemaker: Cecilia Welch. Production was 250 cases. Exceptional. About \$250.

www.yountridge.com

