



## 2004 MERLOT

### **Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine - "88 POINTS – ONE PUFF"**

*March 2007*

If showing Merlot's black-cherry bias in terms of its fruit, this well-filled, slightly sturdy wine is laced with Cabernet tannins and is built for mid-term aging. Its youthful toughness noted, it is still fairly rich and fit with plenty of fruit, and three or four years of patience are certain to bring the polish and varietal smoothness that it presently lacks.

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### **Colorado Wine News**

*January – March 2007*

Blend of 70% merlot, 16% cabernet sauvignon, 3% malbec, and 2% cabernet franc. It was aged for 18 months in French and American oak and opens with oak, baked blackberry, blueberry, and currant introducing soft, bright, sweet-edged flavors of the same laced with lots of tannin. This finish is long, narrow, and wrapped in tannin.

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### **Wine Enthusiast - "88 POINTS"**

*March 2007*

Back in the '80s Dry Creek Valley had a reputation for Merlot that seems to have been forgotten but shouldn't be, to judge by this fine, soft bottling. It's rich and forward in raspberry and cherry jam, mocha-choca and cola flavors, with a long, spicy, dry and very elegant finish.

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### **California Grapevine - "RECOMMENDED"**

*December 2006 – January 2007*

Medium ruby; pleasant, herbal, cedary, red berry fruit aroma; medium-full body; moderately rich, textured, cedary, plummy, black cherry fruit flavors; medium-full tannin; rough, lean finish; lingering aftertaste.

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## 2003 MERLOT

### **Wine Enthusiast - “88 POINTS”**

*July 2006*

It's not clear that Dry Creek Valley is the ideal home for Merlot. This winery's bottlings have been good but earthy, tannic and dry in the past. This one represents a step forward. There's something elegant about it, and the cherry and mocha-tinged flavors certainly are pleasurable.

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### **San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition 2006**

**GOLD MEDAL**

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## 2002 MERLOT

### **Colorado Wine News**

*October – December 2005*

Contains 7% Cabernet Franc and spent 24 months aging in French and American oak. It opens with floral, black cherry, and black raspberry on the nose. All except the floral character repeat as flavors with an added glycerin note and dry tannin. The finish is medium-broad and medium-long. Well put together but the fruit is not sweet and the wine will serve better with food than as a stand alone offering.

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### **San Diego National Wine Competition 2005**

**GOLD MEDAL**

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### **Robert Whitley - GOLD MEDAL**

*Syndicated columnist, Trenton Times*

*May 4, 2005*

### **San Diego National Wine Competition 2005**

The consistency of this winery is even more remarkable than this one particular wine.

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### **Wine Enthusiast - “87 POINTS”**

*December 15, 2005*

Showing the balance and elegance this winery is known for, this Merlot is earthy, with coffee, herb, blackberry and cherry flavors that finish in a swirl of dry, rather sticky tannins. It's not an ager, but will be fine now with richly marbled meats and hard cheeses.