

2003 Vintage Editorials



Somm score: 95

AROMA dark cherry, slate, mineral, licorice 14
FLAVOR fleshy red cherry, fennel spice, earth 14
STRUCTURE medium-bodied, chewy tannins, bright acid 14
LENGTH persistent, hedonistic length 15
BALANCE well endowed with acids, tannins, fruit 38

Drinkability: 2010 - 2025

Tasting Notes:

Heady aromas of dark cherry, a slate/lead minerality and a hint of anise introduce this brooding monster. Medium-bodied, the palate exhibits a great texture of medium tannins, with notes of red licorice, fennel and red cherry. Definitely not a cocktail wine, this Merlot blossomed with food, revealing its complexity and richness. While the wine opened up in the glass, five to ten years in the cellar will reward you with an exemplary drink.

SOMM scores: A team of 14 Sommeliers of the nation's best Sommeliers have partnered with Vintrust to provide objective and transparent reviews of wines that encounter as they perform their professional duties. SOMM scores have been designed to provide transparency to each wine review. Each SOMM score isolates the five characteristics that often make up a wine's rating and prescribes a number of points for the related descriptor, which add up to total score of 100 - Aroma (15 points), Flavor (15 points), Structure (15 points), Length (15 points) and Balance (40 points). This is the criteria our Sommeliers use when reviewing wine.



ACME Fine Wines, October 18, 2005

2003 BLACKBIRD VINEYARDS, MERLOT, OAK KNOLL DISTRICT, NAPA VALLEY ~ \$70

Every wine tells a story. Michael Polenske's Blackbird Vineyard tells a story you've probably heard before. The grapes grown on the property have been sold to Behrens & Hitchcock, Lail, Shafer, Pride and Robert Foley Vineyards in the past, as well as to Mia Klein's private label, Selene, with a Blackbird Vineyard designated label. Sarah Gott shines as Polenske's winemaker of choice. She left Joseph Phelps and Quintessa to make a splash in a few smaller ponds. It is with wines like this that we never question why we are in this business.