



**merlot**  
**\$20-\$25**

40 TASTED  
31 RECOMMENDED

A good class showing the value of an extra few dollars. Good ripeness, depth of fruit and intensity rather than the weedy styles in some previous classes. The '00s are showing their age and the influence of a difficult vintage. The '01s performed consistently well.

**Mount Avoca Merlot 2000 ★★★★★**

Mid-red in colour with brick edges. Aged development on the nose with mocha-accented oak and ripe fruit notes. A sweet, soft merlot in the mouth with plum and blackberry flavours with nice texture, weight and balance. "Developing well," commented one judge. \$20.99

WINESTATE *July/August 2004*



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Merlot / Cabernet Franc Tasting  
Recommended 1998 Reserve Merlot:  
"Shows good, fresh spicy red berry flavours of medium weight, with supple tannins and fresh acidity making it a very tempting drink now. Will improve further in the short term."