

**2005 Pride Napa-Sonoma Merlot (\$66)** Pride's Merlot has been a point of, well, pride in the past. Its consistency has wavered, but with guidance from Merlot master Robert Foley the quality is undeniably back, with a terrific vintage to show it off. This is Merlot (and 10 percent Cabernet) with gumption and innate brightness. Deep cocoa, charcoal, kirsch and roasted plum get raspberry highlights for a thick but still vibrant profile supported by well-enrobed tannins.