



Stephen Tanzer's

International Wine Cellar

Larkmead

May/June 07

By [Stephen Tanzer](#)

[2004 Larkmead Firebelle Proprietary Red Wine Napa Valley](#) **90**



(\$45; 49% merlot, 34% cabernet sauvignon, 15% malbec and 2% petit verdot) Full ruby-red. Musky currant, espresso, tobacco, truffle and game on the nose. Sweet and creamy, with a slightly green aspect to the bright flavors of redcurrant, strawberry and tobacco. I picked up malbec notes of berry skin and leather. Finishes quite tangy, with sweet tannins.

[2004 Larkmead Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley](#) **90**

(\$55) Bright medium ruby. Currant, flint and graphite on the nose. Ripe but quite tight in the mouth, with currant, blueberry, tobacco and herbal flavors that quickly went into a shell. This, too, shows a slight green aspect but there's also good sweetness here.

[2004 Larkmead LMV Salon Proprietary Red Wine Napa Valley](#) **91**

(\$65) Bright medium ruby. High-pitched aromas of currant, cedar and smoke. Sweet, lush and rich; a step up in depth, structure and energy from the Firebelle and cabernet bottlings. Flavors of currant, tobacco, cedar and graphite. Finishes silky, long and classically dry, with a hint of herbs and ripe tannins. A very grown-up Bordeaux blend based on 61% cabernet sauvignon. This winery is to be commended for its fair pricing.

[2004 Larkmead Cabernet Sauvignon Solari Reserve Napa Valley](#) **92**

(\$75) Full ruby. Plum, chocolate, graphite, tobacco and truffle on the slightly high-toned nose. Rich, broad and sweet, with intriguing underlying minerality. This began quite fat, even a bit ponderous, but gained in freshness and grip with aeration, showing brighter flavors of dark raspberry and minerals and finishing with chewy tannins. I found my score going up.