

## 2005 LARKMEAD VINEYARD FIREBELLE PROPRIETARY RED

**RATING:** 91 POINTS

**DRINK:** 2007-2022

The 2005 Firebelle, a blend of 48% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, has a Bordeaux-like personality in this vintage. Revealing some spicy black cherry and cedary notes intermixed with some forest floor and subtle barrique, the wine has excellent ripeness, a touch of licorice in the mouth, and a medium-bodied, stylish, but long finish with hints of white chocolate. This is a beauty to drink over the next 12-15 years.

Previously recommended: 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate (93), 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Solari Reserve (95), 2004 Firebelle Proprietary Red (91), 2004 LMV Salon Proprietary Red (94).

—ROBERT PARKER (DEC 2007)

## 2005 LARKMEAD VINEYARD LMV SALON PROPRIETARY RED

**RATING:** 91 POINTS

**DRINK:** 2011-2025

The 2005 LMV Salon Proprietary Red (64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot) has a deep ruby/purple color and a sweet nose of spring flowers intermixed with black cherry, black currant, licorice, and pain grille. The wine is medium to full-bodied, has some chocolatey notes in the mouth, a good underpinning of acidity and tannin, and a long, dense, rich finish. This wine should be at its best between 2011 and 2025.

Previously recommended: 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate (93), 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Solari Reserve (95), 2004 Firebelle Proprietary Red (91), 2004 LMV Salon Proprietary Red (94).

—ROBERT PARKER (DEC 2007)

## 2005 LARKMEAD VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**RATING:** 90 POINTS

**DRINK:** 2010-2020

The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate (93% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Petit Verdot) exhibits a deep ruby/purple color, a sweet nose of floral-infused black currants and cherries, some smoke and graphite notes, outstanding density, ripeness, and overall harmony. Still backward and austere in the finish, this is a Medoc look-alike that should drink handsomely between 2010 and 2020+.

Previously recommended: 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate (93), 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Solari Reserve (95), 2004 Firebelle Proprietary Red (91), 2004 LMV Salon Proprietary Red (94).

—ROBERT PARKER (DEC 2007)

## 2005 LARKMEAD VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON SOLARI RESERVE

**RATING:** 94 POINTS

**DRINK:** 2012-2030

The prodigious 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Solari Reserve (a 525-case cuvee of 96% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Petit Verdot) is a gorgeous wine. The 2006 blends hadn't been made, hence weren't tasted, but this 2005, which is in bottle, has a dense purple color and a glorious nose of graphite, creme de cassis, tar, and hints of spicy, subtle toast. The wine is dense, medium to full-bodied, with impressive purity, texture, and length (45-50 second for sure). This is a beauty of elegance and substance that should be at its best between 2012 and 2030.

Previously recommended: 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate (93), 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Solari Reserve (95), 2004 Firebelle Proprietary Red (91), 2004 LMV Salon Proprietary Red...

—ROBERT PARKER (DEC 2007)

## 2006 LARKMEAD VINEYARD SAUVIGNON BLANC

**RATING:** 90 POINTS

**DRINK:** 2007-2009

This is a historic vineyard that has the talented Andy Smith (the winemaker at DuMol and a few other places) in full charge of the wines. He continues to prove that proprietor Cam Baker has a superb site, with 120 acres under vine in a 150-acre parcel flat on the valley floor just north of St. Helena. They have added a 2006 Sauvignon Blanc to the portfolio, which sees about 10% new oak, and shows the classic Sauvignon notes of honeyed grapefruit, fig, melon, and lemon grass. It is a medium-bodied wine but has surprising intensity and length. Drink it over the next 1-2 years.

Previously recommended: 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate (93), 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Solari Reserve (95), 2004 Firebelle Proprietary Red (91), 2004...

—ROBERT PARKER (DEC 2007)