

**2005 Larkmead Firebelle Proprietary Red Wine Napa Valley**

(\$45; 48% merlot, 40% cabernet sauvignon, 9% cabernet franc and 3% petit verdot)  
Bright ruby-red. Spicy black fruits, licorice, herbs and lavender on the nose. Supple, lush and chewy, with enticing sweetness to the berry and chocolate flavors. Finishes with dusty, building tannins. This gained in sweetness and complexity with extended aeration.

**91**

**2005 Larkmead Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley**

(\$55) Good full medium ruby. Aromas of dark chocolate, spices, flowers and fresh herbs. Offers tobacco leaf and bitter chocolate flavors, and a creamy-sweet texture that seems more merlot than cabernet. Finishes with soft tannins.

**90**

**2005 Larkmead LMV Salon Proprietary Red Wine Napa Valley**

(\$65; 64% cabernet sauvignon, 18% merlot, 16% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot)  
Good bright ruby. Reticent but vibrant aromas of blackberry, licorice and spices. Superripe, creamy and suave on the palate, with very good energy and a light touch to the dark fruit and spice flavors. A dense, rich wine that finishes with broad, sweet tannins and subtle persistence. This held up very well in the recorked bottle.

**92(+?)**