

**Griffin Creek** \$45  
**2003 Fortmiller Vineyard Syrah, Rogue Valley** This small lot of vineyard-designated Syrah from Southern Oregon opens with aromas of espresso, cherries and even a hint of ripe apples, followed by flavors of fresh-brewed coffee and ripe berries.

— 42 cases

**Brandborg Vineyard and Winery** \$27  
**2004 Syrah, Umpqua Valley** California escapees Terry and Sue Brandborg have fit in well in the Umpqua Valley and are producing wines of distinction. This Syrah's aromas reminded us of the Williams-Sonoma Five Pepper Blend, and the flavors hinted at ripe plums, spices and cherry pipe tobacco.

— 588 cases

**Champagne Creek Cellars** \$50  
**2001 Limited Edition Syrah, Umpqua Valley** Sold only at the winery in Roseburg, Ore., this reserve-style Syrah provides focused aromas of vanilla, white pepper, blackberries and orange zest, followed by dense flavors of ripe dark fruit, cola and vanilla.

— 150 cases

**DiStefano Winery** \$34  
**2003 Syrah R, Columbia Valley** Mark Newton makes an array of Bordeaux-style wines, as well as this Syrah. It opens with pleasing aromas of dark fruits, chocolate and vanilla, which lead to lingering flavors of charming berries.

— 890 cases

**Best Buy!**

**Waving Tree Winery** \$15  
**2004 Syrah, Columbia Valley** Terrence Atkins crafted this nicely priced Syrah from estate vineyards near Goldendale, Wash. It provides aromas of blackberries and sandalwood and flavors of Saskatoon berry pie.

— 150 cases

**Mount Baker Vineyards** \$16  
**2001 Barrel Select Syrah, Yakima Valley** This Everson, Wash., winery has put together a delicious and affordable Syrah that reveals aromas of dried cherries, blackberries and vanilla and flavors of dark fruit, black tea and chocolate.

— 469 cases

**Wedge Mountain Winery** \$18  
**2004 Syrah, Columbia Valley** Charlie McKee crafts a dizzying array of wines at his Peshastin, Wash., facility, including this tasty and affordable Syrah. It offers fruit-driven aromas of blackberries, strawberries and black cherries and medium-bodied flavors of dark fruit.

— 94 cases

**Cuneo Cellars** \$40  
**2003 Del Rio Vineyard Syrah, Rogue Valley** Gino Cuneo's winery is in the heart of the Yamhill-Carlton District in the northern Willamette Valley, but he tends to get much of his fruit from warmer climates, including

Southern Oregon. This Syrah offers aromas and flavors of sweet blackberries, red plums and hints of chocolate.

— 625 cases

**Gamache Vintners** \$28  
**2003 Syrah, Columbia Valley** The Gamache brothers planted their vineyard in 1982. This Syrah shows off aromas of ripe cherries and mineral earth and flavors of bacon fat and bright fruit. Pair with slow-roasted meats.

— 380 cases

**Dobbes Family Estate** \$48  
**2004 Fortmiller Vineyard Syrah, Rogue Valley** This single-vineyard Syrah from Southern Oregon opens with aromas of huckleberries and dusty cherries, followed by flavors of black cherries backed with moderate tannins.

— 150 cases

**Kestrel Vintners** \$38  
**2003 Winemaker Select Co-Ferment Syrah, Yakima Valley** This Prosser, Wash., winery used the Old World method of blending a bit of Viognier (in this case, 8%) to the Syrah during fermentation. The resulting wine provides aromas of cranberries, vanilla and plums, followed by flavors of juicy blackberries with modest tannins.

— 251 cases

**Belle Vallée Cellars** \$26  
**2004 Syrah, Rogue Valley** This Corvallis, Ore., producer has released its second Syrah, which contains Southern Oregon fruit. It shows off aromas of black cherries and sweet pipe tobacco, as well as bold flavors of sarsaparilla, black team and blackberries.

— 300 cases

**Bergevin Lane Vineyards** \$30  
**2004 Oui Deux Syrah, Wahluke Slope** Using fruit from Clifton and Stone Tree Vineyards on the Wahluke Slope, this co-fermented blend of Syrah and Viognier (11%) offers aromas of cherry reduction sauce and chocolate and flavors of ripe blackberries. It has Merlot-like smoothness.

— 500 cases

**Tyrus Evan** \$28  
**2004 Syrah, Walla Walla Valley** This Carlton, Ore., winery, the brainchild of wine-maker extraordinaire Ken Wright, has crafted a Syrah from Walla Walla grapes. The aromas of spicy Bing cherries and cola lead to flavors of blackberries and black cherries.

— 325 cases

**RoxyAnn Winery** \$30  
**2004 Syrah, Rogue Valley** Located in Medford, Ore., this young producer has crafted a Syrah with aromas of huckleberries, black pepper and cranberries, followed by delicious flavors of wild berries. Bright acidity and moderate tannins provide good structure and balance.

— 200 cases

**E. B. Foote Winery** \$16  
**2004 Graves Vineyard Syrah, Columbia Valley** This boutique producer in Barden, Wash., has made been making superb Syrahs for the past several years. This version shows off aromas of blackberries, plums and black pepper, followed by medium-bodied flavors of black cherries. A balanced, well-made wine.

— 290 cases

**Best Buy!**

**Parma Ridge Vineyards** \$13  
**2004 Syrah-Merlot, Idaho** Regardless what is on the label, this is legally a Syrah because it contains 75% Syrah and 25% Merlot. This opens with aromas of strawberries and mineral soils, followed by flavors of black fruit and juniper.

— 142 cases

**Champagne Creek Cellars** \$20  
**2003 Freed Estate Vineyards Syrah, Umpqua Valley** This vineyard-designated Syrah from Southern Oregon provides aromas of cranberries, lilacs and spices and flavors of blackberry-infused honey and black pepper.

**Sawtooth Winery** \$15  
**2003 Syrah, Idaho** While Syrah makes up most of this wine, there's also a bit of Cinsault, Grenache and Mourvedre blended in to give this a more Southern Rhône flavor. It's loaded with aromas of black pepper and wild berries, followed by flavors of blackberries, plums and cherries.

— 1,200 cases

**Flying Dutchman Winery** \$60  
**2003 Planchon Vineyard Syrah, Applegate Valley** Dick Cutler crafts his wines at his central Oregon Coast facility but gathers grapes from throughout the state. This wine reveals aromas and flavors of mocha and dark ripe fruit. A well-structured, intense wine.

— 141 cases

**Coeur d'Alene Cellars** \$36  
**2004 Boushey Vineyard Syrah, Washington** This Idaho producer is bringing in grapes from one of Washington's top Syrah growers. This wine is still young and has yet to show its full potential, but it is beginning to reveal luscious aromas and flavors.

— 80 cases

**Best Buy!**

**Hogue Cellars** \$10  
**2003 Syrah, Columbia Valley** This affordable wine from one of Washington's largest producers opens with aromas of minerals, dark fruit and black pepper, followed by rich, jammy flavors of blackberry and sarsaparilla.

— 4,130 cases

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