

## **Merlots Worth Hunting For**

Here are four suggestions for intriguing Merlots that are better than the run-of-the-mill stuff:

**Alderbrook 1994 Kunde Vineyard, Sonoma Valley.** Aromatic, almost perfumey. Graceful, elegant fruit, still rather deep; great texture. Wonderful flavors. (\$18)

**Columbia Winery 1992 Red Willow Vineyard, Yakima Valley.** Fragrant, herbal and textured; fresh and substantial, with a great aftertaste with a hint of citrus. (\$21)

**Gary Farrell 1993 Ladi's Vineyard, Sonoma County.** Very ripe fruit, jam and spice, oak a bit high, but manageable. Gentle fruit on the tongue; wonderful, graceful structure. (\$21)

**1994 Truchard 1994 Carneros.** Red currant and spice (from new oak), and a perfect varietal character underneath all the berry smells. A lighter weight wine with great intensity of fruit. (\$20)  $\frac{W}{e}$