

**1995 FAMILY RESERVE MERLOT
OAKVILLE ESTATE, NAPA VALLEY**



91 Points

Wine Advocate

Robert M. Parker, Jr.

“As a critic of the insipid, vegetal, often appallingly over-priced Merlots that inundate the marketplace, it is a pleasure to taste the real thing. Venge has produced two terrific wines that will please both Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon lovers. The 1995 Venge Family Reserve Merlot has been aged in 100% new oak, but it is so extraordinarily extracted and rich that the oak plays only a minor role in the wine's aromatics and flavors. There are only 200 cases of this thick, black/purple-colored wine. The acidity is low, and the flavor and concentration extraordinarily high. This is a blockbuster, full-bodied, super-concentrated Merlot with a viscous personality and sensational extract. A pure, full-blooded heavyweight, it is even more impressive than the 1994, which I reviewed last year. It will drink well for 15 or more years.”