

**1996 FAMILY RESERVE MERLOT
OAKVILLE ESTATE, NAPA VALLEY**



90 Points

Wine Advocate

Robert M. Parker, Jr.

“The outstanding 1996 Venge Family Reserve Merlot is a match for the fabulous 1994. The wine was made from Clone 7 and aged in 100% new French oak. By Venge standards the alcohol is relatively modest (13.5%) in this full-bodied, chewy, thick, highly-extracted Merlot, which also possesses toasty, chocolatey, cherry-like flavors. Viscous and succulent, it is impossible to resist. This wine should be drinkable upon release, and last for 12-15 years. Readers weaned on sterile, insipid, wimpish Merlots will need to have their palates recalibrated after tasting this blockbuster.”