



MELKA WINES

Recent Reviews

Robert M. Parker Jr.'s The Wine Advocate

Issue 162 December 2005

2003 *Métisse Proprietary Red Wine* ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ 93+ points

2004 *Métisse Proprietary Red Wine* ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ 93-95 points

Well-known wine consultant Philippe Melka has produced approximately 500 cases of each of these wines.

The 2003 *Métisse*, a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot, is a 20-year wine from the famed Madrona Ranch. It offers beautiful scents of white chocolate, charcoal embers, flowers, blackberries, and currants. Aged in 75% new French oak, it is full-bodied with silky tannin, a superb texture, and a window of drinkability between 2007-2020. The 2004 *Métisse*, an identical blend from Madrona Ranch, boasts an intense, pure nose of licorice, blueberries, blackberries, and cassis. Silky tannin, well-integrated wood, and a full-bodied, opulent mid-palate, as well as finish, are authoritative, yet exhibit terrific equilibrium and freshness. The 2004 should hit its peak in 4-5 years, and last for two decades.

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

May/June 2006

2003 *Métisse Proprietary Red Wine* ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ 92+ points ⚡ ⚡ ⚡

2004 *Métisse Proprietary Red Wine* ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ 92-95 points

The 2003 is a Bordeaux blend based on 85% cabernet sauvignon, from Jim and Stephanie Gamble's Madrona Ranch vineyard located near Spottswood. Bright medium ruby. Black plum, black cherry, caramel and violet on the nose. Sweet and round but high-pitched, with nicely integrated acidity lending freshness to the dark berry and licorice flavors. Finishes with fine tannins and excellent length. The 2004 *Metisse* is full ruby. Black plum, minerals and a hint of game on the slightly wild nose. Dense, silky and lush but with perfectly integrated acidity and a violet florality giving this rather claret-like wine a distinctly juicy character. Offers terrific subtle sweetness and finishes with outstanding persistence.



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Robert M. Parker Jr.'s The Wine Advocate

Issue 132 December 2000

1998 M tisse Proprietary Red Wine 91 points

1999 M tisse Proprietary Red Wine 90-92 points

Frenchman Philippe Melka is quickly establishing a reputation as one of the finest consultants in Napa Valley. He oversees the winemaking at Lail Vineyards, and has recently added Caldwell Vineyard, Vineyard 29 and Marston Family Vineyard to his portfolio. He is also the person responsible for the fabulous wines emerging from Seavey in Conn Valley.

The 1998 M tisse, a blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc) is a gorgeously-proportioned, full-bodied, dark purple-colored effort with superb density, soft, sweet tannin, a generous constitution, and copious quantities of blackberry and cassis fruit nicely dosed with subtle new oak. Low in acidity, it is ideal for drinking over the next 12-15 years. It is an exceptional proprietary red from the 1998 vintage. The 1999 M tisse (an assemblage of 80% cabernet sauvignon, 17% merlot, and 3% cabernet franc) represents a trial blend, with slightly more Cabernet Sauvignon than the 1998. Approximately 450 cases were produced. Like the 1998, it sees 40%-45% new oak, and, if possible, it will be bottled without filtration, although occasionally Melka will fine the wine (as he did in 1998) to soften the tannin. The 1999 exhibits a dense purple color as well as a Pomerol-like bouquet of espresso, blackberries, cherries, and chocolate. Full-bodied and velvety-textured, this promising red should be at its finest between 2004-2020.

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

November/December 2002

1999 M tisse Proprietary Red Wine 91 points

Bright ruby. Subtle nose combines cassis, mocha, tobacco, lavender and smoke. Penetrating, juicy and very suave, with cassis and bitter chocolate flavors complicated by a lingering note of cured tobacco. Builds nicely on the back end, finishing harmonious, sweet and very long, with ripe, dusty tannins.

Robert M. Parker Jr.'s The Wine Advocate

Issue 142 August 2002

2000 M tisse Proprietary Red Wine 89 points

The dense ruby/purple-colored 2000 M tisse (80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, and 5% Cabernet Franc) offers a sweet nose of black fruits intermixed with licorice, minerals, and toasty oak as well as ripe, accessible fruit in both the mid-palate and finish. It is an elegant offering to enjoy during its first 10-12 years of life.

Robert M. Parker Jr.'s The Wine Advocate

Issue 150 December 2003

2001 M tisse Proprietary Red Wine 94 points

The 2001 is the finest example of this offering Philippe Melka has yet fashioned. Sadly, there are only 350 cases of this beautifully made, deep, opaque purple-colored wine. It offers a gorgeous perfume of black currants, acacia flowers, espresso roast, and a hint of chocolate. Powerful yet well-delineated, rich, and surprisingly light on its feet, it is the first 100% Cabernet Sauvignon effort Melka has produced.

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

Issue 114 May/June 2004

2001 M tisse Proprietary Red Wine 92 points

Good ruby-red. Currant, dark chocolate, licorice and mint on the nose. Fat and round but fresh and high-pitched, with pure, lively flavors of currant, menthol, licorice and fresh herbs. This offers excellent chewy depth. Finishes with strong but well-distributed tannins. An excellent vintage for this bottling, the first to be made completely from cabernet sauvignon.



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Robert M. Parker Jr.'s The Wine Advocate *Issue 126 December 2000*
 1996 M tisse Proprietary Red Wine       91 points

Philippe Melka is the winemaker for Seavey in Conn Valley. This small project, about 240 cases, is a blend of 40% cabernet sauvignon, 30% cabernet franc and 30% merlot. A Bordeaux-styled red (Melka was trained under Christian Moueix), this 1996 is a stylish, complex, elegant wine. It boasts a dark ruby/purple color, followed by attractive aromatics consisting of black currants, lead pencil, cedar, spice box, and pain grille. Medium-bodied, with graceful, ripe fruit, and nicely-integrated tannin and acidity, this is an exceptionally harmonious graceful wine that opens beautifully in the glass. It will not knock tasters over with its power or extract, but there is plenty going on in this stylish, complete wine. Enjoy it now and over the next 12-14 years.

Wine and Spirits *December 2000*
 Top 16 cabernet sauvignon and blends in 2000   94 points
 1997 M tisse Napa Valley

Philippe Melka blends this wine from a selection of lots he gathers at his various consulting projects in napa - including Lail, Constant, Vineyard 29, among others. It comes off as beautiful and leggy as a thoroughbred colt just learning to run: This wine is intoxicating in its youth - by no means from mere alcohol, but from the sophisticated aromatics, the crisp mineral tannins so evocative of the earth, the sheer  lan of its spicy length. It may be pure Napa in its ripeness of fruit, but the refinement transcends any physical boundaries.

Robert M. Parker Jr.'s The Wine Advocate *Issue 126 December 2000*
 1996 M tisse Proprietary Red Wine   91 points
 1997 M tisse Proprietary Red Wine   93 points

M tisse is the name of the limited production wine made by the talented young French winemaking consultant, Philippe Melka. The 1996 Proprietary Red (240 cases made from a blend of 40% cabernet sauvignon, 30% cabernet franc and 30% merlot) is Bordeaux-like, but with additional ripeness from the splendid California fruit. A dark ruby/purple color is followed by aromas of cedar, spice box, lead pencil, and black currants. Sweet tannin, plum, smoke, and spice are evident in this rich, full-bodied, concentrated red. Already delicious, it promises to age for 15-18 years.

The 1997 Proprietary Red (450 cases made from 53% cabernet sauvignon, 27% merlot, and 20% cabernet franc) is similar to that of the famed Chateau Haut-Brion, but the wine tastes more like a Pomerol. Deep ruby/purple, with an exuberant, exotic nose of espresso beans lathered in melted chocolate, and jammy cherry/cassis. Full bodied and velvety-textured, this opulent, hedonistic, gorgeously textured wine is already thrilling to drink.

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar *May/June 2000*
 1997 M tisse Napa Valley        90 points

Saturated ruby-red. Floral aromas of raspberry, mocha, licorice, chocolate and mint; slightly roasted aspect. Fat, sweet and mouthfilling; currant and black plum flavors are brightened by ripe, integrated acidity. A lovely combination of power and finesse. Finishes with substantial but fine tannins; initially showed an edge of acidity but became more harmonious with aeration.