



Acme Wine Company

Acme Wine Co. Weekly Update...



Behrens & Hitchcock

It all started in 1993 with a mere 175 cases of handcrafted wine. Behrens & Hitchcock has since then increased production of their wines using the finest grapes available without losing any focus of quality. With very close attention to detail, Les Behrens continues to produce wines with profound flavor, complexity and depth.

Here is a list of current offerings from Acme:

2004 Behrens & Hitchcock Alder Springs Cuvee, Mendocino \$48

Concentrated, nuanced, and complex is the 2004 Alder Springs Cuvee, a blend of 50% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, and 25% Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Its deep saturated ruby/purple color is followed by sweet aromas of blueberries, white flowers, smoke, and earth. Dense, full-bodied, and unctuously-textured, it will provide a complex, hedonistic mouthful of wine over the next 7-8 years.

91 Points – Robert Parker

2004 Behrens & Hitchcock Syrah ‘Chien Lunatique,’ Napa Valley \$62

Named after Lucy, the owners’ wild and crazy Jack Russell terrier, the 2004 Chien Lunatique Syrah from the Page Nord Vineyard is a blend of 85% Syrah and 15% Cabernet Franc. Its super dense blue/purple color is accompanied by a big, projected, flamboyant nose of blue and black fruits, crushed rocks, flowers, and smoky oak. Rich and concentrated with low acidity as well as tremendous density, it is a delicious homage to this irrepressible dog who has survived collisions with fork lifts, large vehicles, and rattlesnakes.

91 Points – Robert Parker

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2004 Behrens & Hitchcock Kenefick Ranch Cuvee, Napa Valley \$76

The 2004 Kenefick Ranch Cuvee, which is mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, exhibits plenty of gravelly scorched earth notes intermixed with black and blue fruits, spice box, and toasty oak. Rich, full-bodied, and delicious, it promises to age impeccably for 12 or more years.

94 Points – Robert Parker

2004 Behrens & Hitchcock Merlot Alder Springs Ranch, Mendocino \$43

Deep red. Complex, slightly reduced aromas of currant, cherry, chocolate, smoke and earth. Musky and a bit low-toned but with good texture and fat. Dark fruit, chocolate and menthol flavors linger nicely on the finish, which features broad, fine tannins. This is the last merlot from Alder Springs Vineyard, Behrens reports; following this vintage, the Alder Springs merlot will be combined into another cuvee.

90 Points – Stephen Tanzer

2004 Behrens & Hitchcock 'Ode to Picasso,' Napa Valley \$72

A 265-case blend of 54% Merlot, 25% Petit Verdot, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Syrah, the impressively concentrated 2004 B and H Ode to Picasso offers hints of charcoal, graphite, black raspberries, blueberries, and cherries. The complex aromatics are followed by a wine with terrific fruit, a lush, opulent attack and mid-palate, and a heady finish. This beautiful red should drink nicely for 5-7 years.

93 Points – Robert Parker

2004 Behrens & Hitchcock Petite Sirah, Spring Mountain District \$46

Saturated ruby-red. Expressive nose offers kirsch, licorice and smoked meat. Large-scaled and wild, with slightly reduced flavors of black fruits and game. Not especially complex but highly concentrated and compellingly sweet. A saline character contributes to the impression of chewiness. Finishes with sweet, broad, palate-saturating tannins and impressive length. An outstanding petite sirah bottling which Les Behrens describes as "like motor oil."

92 Points – Stephen Tanzer

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2004 Behrens & Hitchcock Syrah Alder Springs

'Hommage to Ed Oliveira,' Mendocino \$68

Good full medium ruby. Black raspberry, gunflint and white pepper on the nose, complicated by a whiff of game; conveys strong varietal and vineyard character. Dense and chewy on the palate, with dark raspberry, smoke and leather flavors complemented by a saline nuance and a hint of chocolate liqueur. Not hugely sweet but chocolatey and long on the back, finishing with chewy, ripe tannins. Another fascinating syrah from a site that has already proven to be one of the best for this variety in northern California.

93 Points – Stephen Tanzer

2004 Behrens & Hitchcock 'St. Augustine,' Napa Valley \$66

The 2004 St. Augustine (42% Cabernet Franc, 42% Merlot, and 16% Cabernet Sauvignon) smells like a great Graves on steroids. Sumptuous aromas of scorched earth, sweet black raspberries, cassis, and blackberries are present in this well-delineated, ripe, full-bodied, ethereal-tasting red. Refreshing, vivacious, and light on its feet, with a seamless personality as well as a spectacularly long finish, it should drink beautifully young, but age handsomely for 12-15 years.

95 Points – Robert Parker

Thank you for shopping with Acme...

Cheers!

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