

**Hope & Grace Wines****2004 Malbec
(Napa Valley)**

Hundreds of winemakers use Malbec as a blending grape to round out Cabernet Sauvignon, and it features frequently in Bordeaux blends such as Opus One and Cain Five. Only in Argentina, in Mendoza in particular, has the grape on its own taken a stronghold. There, vineyards are planted at high altitudes in the Andes Foothills, mitigating the extreme UV factor and producing superbly ripened and balanced fruit.

Now veteran winemaker Charles Hendricks, whose clients include Viader, Barnett, Regusci, Paoletti and Bacio Divino, has released 160 cases of a Malbec priced at \$60, under the label he created in honor of his daughters, Hope and Grace. He joins less than a dozen California wineries, most notably Arrowood, Edgewood, Geyser Peak, Guenoc, Rancho Sisquoc, Reverie, and [Yorkville Cellars](#), who produce a commercial Malbec.

Deeply saturated purple as one would expect, and fairly viscous, the wine has immediately inviting aromas of plum, cherry, tobacco, and black licorice. Like the better Argentine versions (heavy oak use aside), the texture is round and supple and the fruit is ripe but not sweet. Underlying tart acids give the wine a gentle bite, which is very appealing when enjoying it at the table.

Reviewed August 31, 2007 by [Catherine Fallis](#).

THE WINE

Winery: [Hope & Grace Wines](#)

Vintage: 2004

Wine: Malbec

Appellation: [Napa Valley](#)

Grape: Malbec

Price: \$60.00

THE REVIEWER**Catherine Fallis**

Founder and President of Planet Grape LLC, a company committed to bringing the joy of wine, food, and good living into the lives of everyday people, Catherine is creator of the "grape goddess guides to good living," a series of books, television presentations, seminars, and e-learning programs. The fifth woman in the world to become a Master Sommelier, grape goddess Catherine Fallis is still very much down-to-earth.