

**Hester Creek Estate Winery****2004 Cabernet-Merlot  
(Okanagan Valley)**

Here's a twist: a back label quoting Goethe, the great German poet. "Plunge boldly into the thick of life and seize it where you will, it is always interesting." The winery has taken to putting such erudition on many of its back labels, as tangential as that is with wine.

The Goethe aphorism might have been inspired by the winery's recent tumultuous history. When the 2004 vintage was being made, Hester Creek was on its way to receivership. In 2005, the winery was acquired by Prince George businessman Curtis Garland, who has begun to restore Hester Creek's image and the potential of the vineyard.

Last summer, Garland hired a seasoned winemaker from Ontario. Robert Summers has almost 20 vintages under his belt and recently had been the national winemaker for Andrew Peller Ltd. In addition to make his first Hester Creek vintage last fall, Summers has put his hand to finishing the wines he found in the cellar when he arrived.

This wine was aged in both French and American oak barrels and, judging from the vanilla aromas and the round texture, the wine got a reasonably long aging. But not to the point of overwhelming the fruit with wood. The fruit still tastes sweetly of black cherries. An easy-drinking red. 85 points.

Reviewed April 6, 2007 by [John Schreiner](#).

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**THE WINE**

**Winery:** [Hester Creek Estate Winery](#)

**Vintage:** 2004

**Wine:** Cabernet-Merlot

**Appellation:** [Okanagan Valley](#)

**Grapes:** [Cabernet Franc](#), [Merlot](#), [Cabernet Franc](#)

**Price:** \$14.99

**THE REVIEWER****John Schreiner**

John Schreiner has been covering the wines of British Columbia for the past 30 years and has written 10 books on the wines of Canada and BC. He has judged at major competitions and is currently a panel member for the Lieutenant Governor's Awards of

Excellence in Wine. Both as a judge and as a wine critic, he approaches each wine not to find fault, but to find excellence. That he now finds the latter more often than the former testifies to the dramatic improvement shown by BC winemaking in the past decade.