

**The Winery at La Grange****2005 Merlot
(Virginia)**

La Grange is a restored three and a half story red brick manor house built in the 1790's. In September 2006 it opened as a winery, the first in Prince William County, thanks to an investment group led by wine industry icon [Chris Pearmund](#). With 5,500 new Cabernet Sauvignon vines and a new winery building, this new producer is set to make its mark. Total production is about 2,500 cases and includes Vidal Blanc and Norton along with vinifera Pinot Grigio, Viognier, Chardonnay,

Cabernet Franc, and Merlot. The estate also produces Bordeaux blends, a sparkling wine, and port.

Bright, lightly saturated ruby and viscous, this interesting wine has aromas of strawberry, green tea, mint, cherry, and rootbeer. On the palate it also has those cherry cola/rootbeer notes along with a slight smoky, rubbery note. It is medium in body, very silky, round, and clean, with light oak, balanced natural acids and a medium finish. This wine would be delicious with a poached York ham caramel glazed on one side and then baked wrapped in pastry with vegetable mirepoix, mushroom duxelles, and chopped truffle.

Reviewed June 13, 2007 by [Catherine Fallis](#).

THE WINE

Winery: [The Winery at La Grange](#)

Vintage: 2005

Wine: Merlot

Appellation: [Virginia](#)

Grape: [Merlot](#)

Price: \$21.00

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.