

WINE RECOMMENDATION

**LaTour Vineyards****2004 Syrah
(Mount Veeder)**

Tom LaTour, Chairman and CEO of the Kimpton Group, and his wife Barbara produce this wine from the 25 acre vineyard on their estate on Mt. Veeder. The site is at 1900 feet in elevation and has variable rock loam. With the help of winemaker Peter Luthi they produced 598 cases of this Syrah, along with a

Chardonnay and a Pinot Noir. The wine was 100% barrel fermented in 70% new French oak.

As one might expect from Syrah, this wine is opaque purple to crimson at the rim and fairly viscous. Varietally expressive on the nose as well, it has notes of plum, currant, white pepper, smoke, tar, brush, and slate. As the wine opens with aeration, woody and floral notes come out. On the palate, it is medium-bodied, supple, full, and lusciously fruity. At first taste the fruit dropped off quickly, leaving a tart, chewy, and slightly tannic finish. When tasted several hours later, however, the wine had come into beautiful balance. Decant or swirl around in large-bowled stemware for best results, and serve with figs baked with Cabecou goat cheese.

Reviewed July 18, 2007 by [Catherine Fallis](#).

THE WINE

Winery: [LaTour Vineyards](#)

Vintage: 2004

Wine: Syrah

Appellation: [Mount Veeder](#)

Grape: Syrah / Shiraz

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.