

# WINE PICK OF THE WEEK

## 2004 Cayalla RTW Columbia Valley Red Wine

THE NOTION THAT a wine made from a single grape variety is better than one made from a mixture of grapes is simply not true. The future of wines, especially reds, is in blends.

It makes a lot of sense, really. Besides offering the winemaker the freedom to make the best wine he can each year without the constraints of varietal percentages, an otherwise humdrum and disparate lot of wines from here and there can be patched together by a good blender and turned into something quite nice—and affordable.

The 2004 is the first vintage of the Cayalla (the name is a blend of Cayuse and Walla Walla). It's a broad-shouldered wine without being too jammy or high in alcohol. It has fairly intense aromas and flavors of dark fruit with some herbal hints and would work well with hearty foods such as bean soup or braised meats.

**--Richard Kinssies**  
**Seattle Post-Intelligencer**  
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