

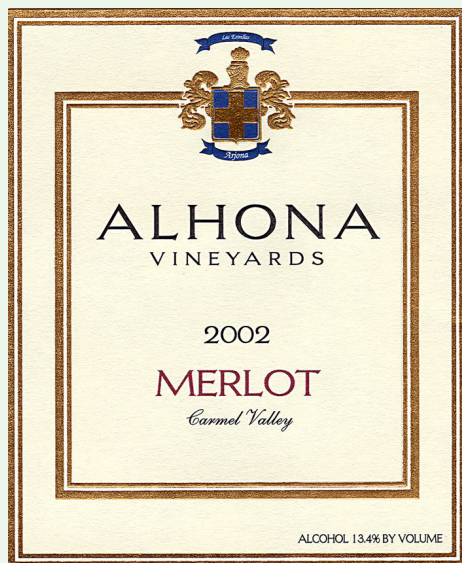
## A Case of New Releases

December 29, 2006

ALHONA  
VINEYARDS

2002 MERLOT  
CARMEL VALLEY, MONTEREY COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA

### Excellent



Whoa, Alhona takes merlot for a walk on the wild side in this **super-ripe, exotic and luscious wine**, the first release for this property. The whole package is **drenched in sandalwood, lavender, cassis, blueberry and black cherry, cedar and dried Provençal herbs**, providing a field-day for sensualists. On the other hand, 18 months in American – not French – oak barrels bestow solid firmness and structure below the plush texture and even a touch of underbrush-like austerity on the finish. 265 cases and **Worth a Search**. Now through 2009 to 2012.