

THE PLAIN DEALER

August 9, 2006

On the label: Steltzner Vineyards 2004 Claret.

Price: \$17.99.

Varietal: 65 percent cabernet sauvignon, 22 percent cabernet franc and 13 percent merlot.

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Where it's from: Napa Valley's Stags Leap District.

Style: This beauty has an aroma of dark cherry nectar and flavors of chocolate, black currants, black raspberry, spices and a black cherry finish.

Pairings: Try this with duck, grilled steak, stew or a veal roast.

Why it's a buy: This is a classic Bordeaux-style wine with an American accent. It is rich in flavor, with surprisingly little tannin and delicious chocolate berry flavors. Tasting it blind, I guessed it to be a wine in the \$25-\$30 range; selling for what it does puts it in the best-buy field.

Each week, John S. Long highlights a moderately priced wine well worth trying. Listed retail prices are based on state of Ohio minimums; you might pay more.