

# ST. HELENA STAR

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## 2005 Palazzo Red Wine Napa Valley

“Red Wine.” Sounds so generic. But I’ve found it’s often code for “killer value” -especially if you compare price points to one called “proprietary red.” Calling it red wine lets you get all wacky with the blends, mix it up, have some fun and price it well. It’s just more casual-sounding than proprietary, which sounds a little stodgy. You can’t yell out at a party “hey, open some proprietary red, man!” Well, you can, but people will roll their eyes.

Scott Palazzo’s red wine is mostly merlot (70 percent) and it is delicious. Just say “Try this RED WINE” and everyone will compliment your good taste. The 2005 Palazzo, also blessed by Robert Parker with 93 points, if that matters to you, is what I call a more Bordeaux-styled wine, not a fruit bomb. It is all about components in balance, with a big nose of ripe cherries, cassis, cocoa, dusty mocha and a note of very reminiscent of the Napa Roasting Co. when you first walk in. Nice long finish, fresh acid and just wonderful sense of harmony in a relatively medium-bodied way. Easily found in town at about \$49 a bottle.

*Stefan Blicher, of [www.bpwinz.com](http://www.bpwinz.com) in St. Helena*

