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WineEnthusiast®

AUGUST 2011

87 Raymond 2007 Reserve Selection Merlot (Napa Valley); $23. Spicy and briary, almost like Zinfandel, which gives this Merlot a somewhat rustic feel. But it's rich in raspberries, cherries, currants and toast. Drink it now. —S.H.

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87 Raymond 2007 R Collection Lot No. 3 Merlot (California); $15. Good for the price. It's rich and oaky, with lots of jammy fruit, cassis, vanilla, toast and spice flavors. With production of more than 14,000 cases, it's easy to find. ***Editors' Choice.*** —S.H.

87 Raymond 2008 R Collection Lot No 3 Chardonnay (California); $15. Fruity and oaky, with pineapple, mango, tangerine, vanilla and buttered toast flavors. Shows lots of the same characteristics of far more expensive Chardonnays, which makes it a good buy. ***Editors' Choice.*** —S.H.

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Wine Restaurants of 2011

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86 Raymond 2008 R Collection Lot No 3 Cabernet Sauvignon (California); $15. A nice, rich Cabernet for drinking now. It's very ripe in blackberries, cherries, currants and cocoa, wrapped into smooth tannins. Has enough flash to impress. —S.H.

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