

## WINE ENTHUSIAST

**94**  
POINTS

Editors' Choice

### Fidelitas 2022 Quintessence Vineyard Merlot (Red Mountain)

This decadent Merlot wastes no time in capturing your attention with its earthy aromatic combination of blackberry tea, Rainier cherries and a wisp of campfire smoke. The wine feels velvety on the palate, with flavors like boysenberry jam, Tahitian vanilla rubbing up against herbs like sage and thyme gliding all over the place. The tannins are plush, while the surprisingly elevated acidity keeps things from getting gloppy. This Merlot gives hedonism a well-deserved good name.

— M.A. Published 5/1/2026

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