

CHEERS

Today's bargain wine buys



By [Jerry Shriver](#)

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Make no mistake

2005 Oops Carmenere, Valle Central, Chile, about \$13. [This new brand's cheeky name](#) plays off the fact that for years, the Carmenere grape was often mistaken for Merlot by vintners in Chile. A lot of the wines labeled "Merlot" that were shipped here over the last decade probably contained a great deal of Carmenere, but thanks to recent scientific advances in grape identification (there's a technical word for this that escapes me at the moment) the situation is being straightened out. Carmenere is slowly beginning to establish its own reputation, and this new line of wines, which also encompasses a Carmenere-Merlot blend, a Cabernet Franc-Carmenere blend and a white Carmenere, is part of that trend. This version has dense plum and black cherry flavors and meaty/smoky notes, but the distinguishing characteristic is the incredibly soft texture, which just sort of floats softly down your throat. Roasted duck would be an ideal mate.