

**Sherwood House Vineyards****2004 Cabernet Franc
(North Fork of Long Island)**

Sherwood House Vineyards is known primarily for their Chardonnay and - to a lesser extent - Merlot, and with good reason. Their Burgundian Chardonnay is deserving of praise and their subtle, Old World-style Merlot is too.

But, as a card-carrying member of the "I Dig Cabernet Franc" club, I'm excited about what they are doing with perhaps my favorite variety. This Sherwood House Vineyards 2004 Cabernet Franc is the winery's second such varietal release and it has the sorts of intriguing, alluring aromas and flavors that wine lovers look for in Cab Franc.

The nose is earthy and mushroomy with a little spice, a little cocoa powder and some green-herbal hints that mesh nicely with the cherry and vanilla notes. The wine is soft and spreads out over the palate with cherry fruit, accented by subtle sweet vanilla and sweet spice. Though it's not as earthy as the nose made me expect, there is a little earthy character here. The tannins are well integrated and velvety smooth leading into a medium-long finish.

Reviewed December 7, 2007 by [Lenn Thompson](#).

THE WINE

Winery: [Sherwood House Vineyards](#)
Vintage: 2004
Wine: Cabernet Franc
Appellation: [North Fork of Long Island](#)
Grape: Cabernet Franc
Price: \$24.00

THE REVIEWER**Lenn Thompson**

Lenn Thompson writes about New York wines for *Dan's Papers*, *Long Island Press*, *Long Island Wine Gazette*, *Edible East End* and *Hamptons.com*. Two words describe his taste in wine — *balance* and *nuance*.

Lenn prefers food-friendly, elegant wines to jammy, over-extracted fruit bombs and heavy-handed oak. When reviewing, Lenn tastes each wine three times — alone right after opening, with food, and again the next day — believing that 90-second reviews are unrealistic and not how the average person enjoys wine.