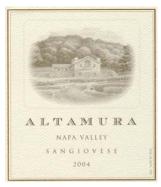


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2004 ALTAMURA SANGIOVESE

Few people get Sangiovese right, but kudos go to proprietor Frank Altamura for putting out an attractive Sangiovese with plenty of sweet cherry fruit intermixed with some tobacco leaf and herbs. The wine is 100% Sangiovese, so this is as virginal an expression of this grape in California as one can find. The wine has medium ruby color and is impeccably well-made, with zesty acidity and loads of fruit. Drink it over the next several

years. Altamura has been making wines for almost 20 years, and I certainly thought several of these wines were the best I ever had from them. They are located in Wooden Valley, which is mostly volcanic soils about nine miles northeast of Napa.

