

# Wine Spectator columnist and Oregonian wine writer Matt Kramer extols virtues of Maquis Lien '05



MATT KRAMER

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### Wines from once-overlooked locales gaining respectability

"It cannot be said too often that many of today's best wines --and wine deals --come from places once ignored, scorned or utterly unnoticed. Big mistake. The wines that follow come from two of the most invigorated and downright exciting wine zones anywhere in the world: Chile and Sicily.



If you want to see how good wines from this newly prominent zone can be then you can do no better than to sample the red wine blend called **Maquis Lien**.

A deft and impressively seamless blend of syrah (38 percent), carmenere (32 percent), cabernet franc (15 percent), petit verdot (8 percent) and malbec (7 percent), this is a succulent red wine blend of uncommon character. Aged in French oak barrels for 12 months, it carries the oak handsomely.

This is beautifully made red wine, with supple tannins, lovely acidity and a highly original blend of grapes that delivers real character. The price is mouthwateringly low for the high-end quality. Very much worth seeking out."

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