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WINE ENTHUSIAST

MAGAZINE

NEW FACES OF THE VALLEY

**MEDLOCK AMES VINEYARD & WINERY**

Christopher Medlock James (far left) and Ames Morison (left) were best friends in college. They went their separate ways—Wall Street, the Peace Corps—and eventually re-teamed in California, where Morison was studying winemaking at U.C. Davis. The

two eventually decided to start their own winery. "In 1998, we happened upon the Bell Mountain Vineyard," says Morison. In 2003, they built a winery on the property in the Mayacamas foothills, due east of Fitch Mountain.

Medlock Ames is committed to making organic wines, with a focus on sustainability. Their first commercial release was a 2001 Merlot. Production now consists of Chardonnay, a Merlot-based Bordeaux red wine, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, with Sauvignon Blanc joining the lineup this year.

92 **Medlock Ames 2004 Bell Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay (Alexander Valley); \$20.** Here's a big, rich, mouthfilling Chard. It's superoaky, superripe and just delicious, offering up a wealth of mango, guava, pineapple custard and peach pie fruit, with the crème brûlée, buttercream and buttered toast from new oak. Really good Chardonnay. —S.H.

