

CHARDONNAY

is medium-bodied and firm in balance with plenty of room to stay the course over the next few years.

   \$13.00

OAKVILLE RANCH VINEYARDS 1992 Napa Valley Vista Vineyard. Rich oaky, grainy, butterscotch tones override scents of varietal fruit in the fairly heavy aromas and, again, in the flavors and aftertaste, toast and nutty qualities dominate over fruit impressions. Somewhat hard on the palate and certainly very flavorful, the wine simply lacks the core of fruit and sense of vitality to bring the whole presentation into agreeable balance. There is a slight edge of bitterness in the short finish.

   \$18.00

SILVERADO VINEYARDS 1992 Napa Valley (2% Sauvignon Blanc). Edging toward the crisp side of the Chardonnay spectrum, this wine offers citrusy impressions from nose to finish. Lemon blossom highlights appear in the clean, ripe apple and creamy oak aromas, and apple, citrus and oak seem just as pleasantly intertwined in the flavors. This clean, direct and flavorful wine has the balance to benefit from a year or two of cellaring but will be very tasty now with a piece of broiled swordfish adorned with dill and a slice of lemon.

   \$14.50

SIMI WINERY 1991 Sonoma/Mendocino/Napa Coming, as it does, in a time where the pursuit of Chardonnay has veered in the direction of lees and oak, this bright, balanced, fruit-focused bottling brings a bit of easy relief. Not that a bit of oak doesn't make an appearance here, but it serves to accent clean aromas and flavors of juicy green apples rather than pushing the wine beyond its fruity limits. Direct, slightly supple and with a good sense of body, this one will be welcome with dishes like grilled snapper.

   \$14.00

SIMI WINERY Reserve 1989 Sonoma County At first encounter, this sizable Chardonnay impresses with its broad oak, butter and leesy richness, but a second look reveals it as threadbare in basic fruit and not so big as its oaky frame suggests. As developed as it wants to be, it is an ambitious, if not wholly successful, attempt to find richness and depth from an off-vintage.

   \$32.00

STAG'S LEAP WINE CLRS 1992 Napa Valley Direct, appealing toasty and appley scents stand out in the nose. Very youthful and firm at this moment, this well-structured wine offers clean appley flavors somewhat enriched by a creamy overlay of oak. While a bit unrefined at the finish, the wine will benefit from one to three years of cellaring in order to allow the flavor components to integrate better. It will serve well with shellfish at this point and,

over time, it will gain a great many fans for its directness and structure.

   \$18.00

STEELE 1992 Mendocino Dennison Vineyard. Sweet oak and pear-like fruit are offered in the aromas of this medium-bodied, well-balanced wine. Light, leesy, roasted grain notes are noticeable in the nose and become more prominent in the flavors in the absence of forceful fruit.

   \$22.00

STEELE 1992 Mendocino Lolonis Vineyard. Slightly earthy, dank wet wood tones intrude on the toasty-leesy aromas. Fruit is not a strong component in the aromas yet the wine has a nice viscous, sweet butter feel on the palate and a sense of ripe, appley fruit. It is a well-balanced, somewhat rich offering with a touch of mustiness evident in the finish.

   \$26.00

STEELE 1992 Carneros Sangiacomo Vineyard. Pungently leesy-cheesy to the point of obscuring the Sangiacomo fruit, this one relies more on winemaking technique than on varietal character. Oily, viscous and fairly rich in the mouth, the wine has some appealing components, but the pungent qualities muddle its attractiveness and severely limit its use with food.

   \$22.00

STERLING VINEYARD 1990 Carneros Winery Lake Vineyard. Napa Valley. Maturing aromas of toasty oak, butterscotch and smoke show little concern with fruit, and, while ripe, the wine's very oaky flavors are missing that key element of fruit. Medium-full-bodied and a touch heavy in feel, this big, but tiring wine lumbers through to a rough, drying, slightly hot finish and argues for both an extra chill and relatively hasty drinking.

   \$18.00

TRUCHARD VINEYARDS 1992 Carneros Napa Valley. Ripe apple and tropical fruit scents are the core of the wine's appealing fruity impressions while sweet oak and light roasted grain tones add notes of richness in the background. The creamy, supple entry is followed by a round and glyceriny texture on the palate. A succulent wine focused on its fruitiness from nose to finish, it should be readily enjoyable for service as an aperitif on a warm evening or with a luncheon buffet.

   \$16.00




VICHON WINERY 1992 Napa Valley Moderately rich and forward aromas carry ripe apple and sweet oak tones with just a touch of a floral fragrance. At entry the wine offers appealing firmness and weight leading into low-keyed appley fruit and oak flavors. While a touch narrow at the finish, this direct and well-made wine will serve comfortably with foods such as baked chicken.

   \$14.00

the way of followthrough, this bottling falls short of the success achieved in the last couple of Truchard offerings.



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
TUALATIN VINEYARDS 1992 Willamette Valley Barrel Fermented. Oregon. More oaky than it is fruity and carrying hints of smoke, toasted nuts and cardboard in its aromas, this lackluster bottling delivers a brief bit of fruit in the mouth before giving in to woody spice and a slightly bitter backtaste of grapefruit. Singularly lacking in freshness, the wine is dry and tiring and shows no sign of improving with time.




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TUALATIN VYDS Private Reserve 1992 Willamette Vly Barrel Fermented. Oregon. Sharing much in common with

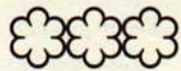
its less-expensive cellarmate, Tualatin's Reserve bottling gives more play to oak than to fruit and comes up short on vitality and freshness. Hinting at butter and old apples beneath its veil of oak, it is soft and viscous with a tag end of citrus imparting a slightly bitter edge to the finish.

   \$14.75

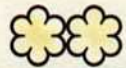
 **ZD 25th Anniversary Vintage 1993 California** Broad but never overblown, the outgoing aromas feature apple and pineapple fruit from nose to aftertaste. Along the way there is plenty of toasty oak joining but never overriding the varietal fruit. Round on the palate and medium-full-bodied, the wine is very well-balanced, and its only drawback is a slight narrowness in the finish which will be ameliorated by a year or two of aging.

   \$22.00

CHARDONNAY BUYING GUIDE



BYRON Reserve 92 Oct 94
DE LOACH "OFS" 93 Dec 94
PAUL HOBBS Dinner Vineyard 92 Oct 94



BELVEDERE Preferred Stock	92 Dec 94	FISHER VYDS Coach Insignia	93 Oct 94	MARTIN RAY Mariage	92 Oct 94
BERINGER Private Reserve	92 Sep 94	GUENOC Estate Reserve	92 Nov 94	ROMBAUER Carneros	92 Sep 94
CAMBRIA Katherine's Vineyard	93 Nov 94	KENDALL-JACKSON Grd Res	92 Jul 94	SANTA BARBARA Reserve	92 Sep 94
CH MONTELENA Anniversary	92 Oct 94	LAMBERT BRIDGE Sonoma	92 Oct 94	SOLITUDE Sangiacomo Vyd	93 Dec 94
CRONIN Stuhlmuller Vineyard	92 Jul 94	LANDMARK Damaris Reserve	93 Feb 95	SOLITUDE Sangiacomo Vyd	92 Dec 94
DEHLINGER Montrachet Cuvée	92 Sep 94	MATANZAS CREEK Sonoma	92 Oct 94	STAG'S LEAP WN CLRS Napa	92 Jul 94
DEHLINGER Russian River Vly	92 Sep 94	MIRASSOU Harvest Reserve	92 Oct 94	SWANSON Carneros	92 Feb 95
		OAKVILLE RANCH "ORV"	92 Dec 94	MARIMAR TORRES Don Miguel	92 Oct 94
		PINE RIDGE Stags Leap District	93 Feb 95	TRUCHARD Carneros	92 Jul 94
		PINNACLES Monterey County	92 Sep 94	ZD 25th Anniversary Vintage	93 Jul 95



ACACIA Carneros	92 Nov 94	FOXEN Tinaquaic Vineyard	92 Feb 95	NAVARRO Première Release	92 Oct 94
ACACIA Marina Vineyards	91 Oct 94	FRANCISCAN Cuvée Sauvage	92 Sep 94	NICHOLS Arroyo Grande Vly	92 Sep 94
BABCOCK Mt Carmel Vineyard	93 Dec 94	FREEMARK ABBEY Napa Vly	91 Oct 94	G NIEBAUM Special Reserve	90 Jul 94
BABCOCK Grand Cuvée	92 Nov 94	E & J GALLO Northern Sonoma	92 Dec 94	J PHELPS Los Carneros	92 Sep 94
BOUCHAINE Limited Release	91 Jul 94	GLORIA FERRER Carneros	92 Oct 94	ROCHIOLI Russian River Vly	93 Feb 95
BOYER Ventana Vineyard	92 Sep 94	GUENOC North Coast	93 Nov 94	J ROCHIOLI Reserve	92 Sep 94
BUEHLER Russian River Valley	93 Oct 94	HANNA Reserve	92 Feb 95	ROMBAUER Carneros	93 Feb 95
BYRON Santa Barbara County	93 Dec 94	HENRY ESTATE Umpqua Vly	90 Oct 94	SAINTSBURY Reserve	92 Dec 94
CAKEBREAD Reserve	91 Sep 94	HESS COLLECTION Napa Vly	92 Sep 94	SAINTSBURY Carneros	92 Nov 94
CALERA Mount Harlan	92 Oct 94	JEKEL Gravelstone	91 Oct 94	SANFORD Barrel Select	92 Oct 94
CAMELOT Santa Barbara Co	93 Oct 94	KENDALL-JACKSON Grd Res	93 Feb 95	SANFORD Santa Barbara	92 Sep 94
CARNEROS CREEK Carneros	92 Oct 94	KENDALL-JACKSON Vint Res	93 Oct 94	SILVERADO Napa Valley	92 Jul 94
CHAPPELLET Napa Valley	92 Oct 94	KENDALL-JACKSON Camelot	92 Jul 94	SIMI Sonoma/Mendocino/Napa	91 Jul 94
CH STE MICHELLE Cold Creek	92 Sep 94	KISTLER Dutton Ranch	92 Jul 94	SIMI Reserve	90 Dec 94
CH WOLTNER Frederique Vyd	92 Oct 94	KUNDE Estate Reserve	92 Jul 94	SONOMA-CUTRER Russian Rv	92 Oct 94
CRONIN Ventana Vineyards	92 Feb 95	KUNDE Kinneybrook Vineyard	92 Sep 94	STAG'S LEAP WN CLRS Res	92 Feb 95
CRONIN Santa Cruz Mtns	92 Jul 94	LA CREMA Grand Cuvée	93 Feb 95	STEELE Dennison Vineyard	92 Jul 94
CUVAISON WINERY Reserve	92 Sep 94	LA CREMA Reserve	92 Sep 94	STERLING Napa Valley	93 Feb 95
DE LORIMIER Alexander Vly	92 Oct 94	LANDMARK Two Williams Vyd	92 Oct 94	STORRS Beauregard Ranch	92 Oct 94
DRY CREEK Reserve	91 Dec 94	LAVA CAP El Dorado	92 Dec 94	STORRS Santa Cruz Mtns	92 Sep 94
EDMEADES Mendocino	93 Feb 95	LONG Napa Valley	92 Oct 94	R STRONG Chalk Hill	92 Sep 94
EL MOLINO Napa Valley	92 Sep 94	MAC ROSTIE Sangiacomo Vyds	93 Feb 95	TALBOTT Monterey	92 Dec 94
ESTANCIA Monterey	93 Nov 94	MAC ROSTIE Reserve	92 Oct 94	TALBOTT Diamond T Estate	91 Sep 94
FERRARI-CARANO Reserve	91 Sep 94	MAZZOCCO River Lane	92 Jul 94	VICHON Napa Valley	92 Jul 94
FETZER Bonterra	92 Oct 94	P MICHAEL Mon Plaisir	92 Dec 94	VILLA MT EDEN Grand Res	92 Sep 94
		MILL CREEK Dry Creek Valley	92 Feb 95	MARK WEST Wild Yeast	92 Oct 94
		R MONDAVI Carneros	92 Oct 94	WHITE ROCK Napa Valley	92 Oct 94
		MOUNT PALOMAR Temecula	93 Oct 94	WOODWARD CNYN ColumVly	93 Dec 94