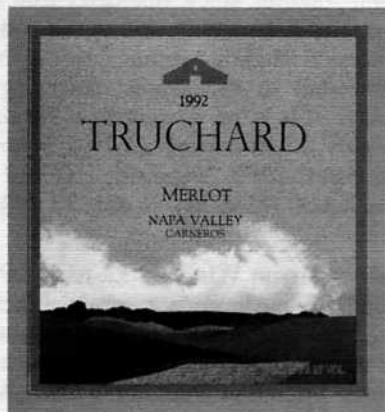


1992 & 1993 MERLOT
New Releases



1. **1992 Truchard**, Carneros, Napa Valley (\$18) – Medium-dark ruby color; attractive, floral, cedary, earthy, slightly minty, ripe plum, berry fruit aroma which developed with airing in the glass; medium-full body; moderately rich, spicy, herbal, cedary, ripe berry fruit flavors; well balanced; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Above-average to superior quality. While appealing to drink now this wine should continue to develop with several more years of bottle aging. Highly recommended. *13.2% alcohol; 0.67 TA; 3.54 pH; 1,713 cases; 100% Merlot; released February 1995.* (Group Score: 16.0 of 20 points, 2 of 12 first-place votes/3 seconds/1 third; My Score: 16.5 [88 of 100 points], third place)
2. **1993 De Loach**, Russian River Valley (\$14) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, herbal, spicy, cedary, green olive, berry fruit aroma with overtones of American oak; medium-full to full body; forward, rich, cedary, herbal, green olive, cherry fruit flavors; medium-full tannin; slightly harsh on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Above-average quality. Highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 0.55 TA; 3.50 pH; 4,100 cases; blended with 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon; released January 1995.* (Group Score: 15.9, 2/1/2; My Score: 16.5 [85/100], fifth place)
3. **1993 Richardson Vineyards**, “Sangiaco,” Carneros (\$18) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, spicy, intense berry fruit aroma with a hint of mint and oaky overtones; medium-full body; rich, forward, slightly jammy, high-extract, ripe berry fruit flavors; medium to medium-full tannin; slightly tart on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Above-average quality. Very appealing to drink now. Highly recommended. *13.8% alcohol; 0.70 TA; 3.80 pH; 752 cases; blended with 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Cabernet Franc; released May 1995.* (Group Score: 15.9, 2/2/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], second place)
4. **1992 Cafaro**, Napa Valley (\$26) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, intense, cedary, green olive, spicy, ripe cherry, black currant aroma; medium-full to full body; forward, big, rich, concentrated, cedary, high-extract, berry fruit flavors; well structured; medium-full to full tannin; somewhat tart on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Above-average quality. Needs a few more years of bottle aging. Highly recommended. *13.5% alcohol; 0.59 TA; 3.42 pH; 830 cases; 100% Merlot; released August 1995.* (Group Score: 15.8, 2/0/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], first place)
5. **1992 Rombauer Vineyards**, Napa Valley (\$23.50) – Medium-dark ruby; pleasant, forward, rich, cedary, herbal, slightly spicy, ripe plum, black cherry fruit aroma which

developed with airing; medium-full body; forward, rich, slightly jammy, ripe berry fruit flavors; slightly rough finish; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Above-average quality. Can use another year or two of bottle aging to develop. Highly recommended. *12.6% alcohol; 0.62 TA; 3.54 pH; 3,200 cases; blended with 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc; released October 1994.* (Group Score: 15.7, 1/3/2; My Score: 16.5 [85/100], sixth place)

6. **1992 Kendall-Jackson**, “Grand Reserve,” California (\$30) – Medium-dark ruby; subdued, herbal, oaky, dusty, black cherry, berry fruit aroma; medium-full to full body; forward, concentrated, cedary, ripe black cherry flavors; medium-full to full tannin; dry finish; lingering aftertaste. Above-average quality. Highly recommended. *13.0% alcohol; 0.62 TA; 3.48 pH; case production not disclosed; blended with 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc; released February 1995.* (Group Score: 15.7, 1/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], fourth place)

7. **1992 Merryvale**, Napa Valley (\$24) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; herbal, cedary, blackberry aroma with notes of tobacco and vanilla; medium-full to full body; forward, full-extract, cedary, berry fruit flavors; full tannin; dry, tart, chalky finish; lingering aftertaste. Above-average quality. Recommended. *13.5% alcohol; 0.71 TA; 3.56 pH; 3,000 cases; blended with 22% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Cabernet Franc; released September 1995.* (Group Score: 15.6, 1/1/0; My Score: 16 [82/100], ninth place)

8. **1992 Wellington Vineyards**, Sonoma County (\$15) – Medium-dark ruby; forward, herbal, cedary, berry fruit aroma (with some tasters noting a hint of ethyl acetate); full body; tight, herbal, cedary, berry fruit flavors; medium-full to full tannin; rough and woody on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Above-average quality. Recommended. *13.8% alcohol; 0.60 TA; 3.40 pH; 784 cases; blended with 16% Cabernet Franc; released March 1995.* (Group Score: 15.6, 1/1/3; My Score: 16 [83/100], eighth place)

9. **1992 Ferrari-Carano**, Sonoma County (\$20) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, cedary, herbal, green olive, cherry fruit aroma; medium-full body; slightly rich, berry fruit flavors; medium-full to full tannin; rough and slightly harsh on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Above-average quality. Recommended. *13.7% alcohol; 0.64 TA; 3.54 pH; 15,000 cases; blended with 6% Petite Verdot and 4% Malbec; released February 1995.* (Group Score: 15.6, 0/0/2; My Score: 16 [84/100], seventh place)

10. **1992 Buena Vista**, Carneros (\$13) – Medium-dark ruby; pleasant, herbal, cedary aroma with overtones of tobacco and black pepper; medium-full body; tight, herbal, cedary, slightly rich berry fruit flavors; medium to medium-full tannin; slightly harsh and rough on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Standard to above-average quality. *13.0% alcohol; 0.64 TA; 3.36 pH; 4,250 cases; 100% Merlot; released January 1995.* (Group Score: 15.3, 0/0/1; My Score: 15.5 [79/100], tenth place)

11. **1992 Kenwood**, “Jack London Vineyard,” Sonoma Valley (\$20) – Medium-dark ruby; subdued, cedary, herbal, slightly musty, earthy, berry fruit aroma; medium-full body; tart, herbal, cedary, berry fruit flavors; medium-full tannin; dry, slightly bitter finish; slightly lingering aftertaste. Standard quality. *13.1% alcohol; 0.61 TA; 3.45 pH; 4,000 cases; 100% Merlot; released September 1994.* (Group Score: 15.2, 0/0/0; My Score: 15.5 [78/100], eleventh place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6] [7, 8, 9, 10] [11]