



WINE OF THE WEEK



2001 Truchard Syrah, Carneros Napa Valley (\$28)

This longtime Carneros grower is producing some of the best Syrah in the Napa Valley. The 2001 – from a great vintage – is inky in color and smooth and soft on the palate. It’s difficult to believe that it’s ready to drink now, although it’ll hold over the next dozen years.

The grapes were cultivated from the estate’s 12 acres of Syrah – four acres are in the “Highlands” region to the north, and eight acres are located at the southern end of the vineyard. These areas are dominated by austere hillsides composed of volcanic rock and ash. The vines range from four – 11 years old.

The wine was aged for 10 months in both French (90 percent) and American (10 percent) oak; with 30 percent of these barrels being new. But the wine is so well-balanced, with delicious fruit, that the wood proves only to give it roundness without imparting any aromas or flavors.

The listed alcohol is 14.3 percent, the pH is 3.71, the TA is 6.6, and there were 2,951 cases produced.

- Alan Goldfarb