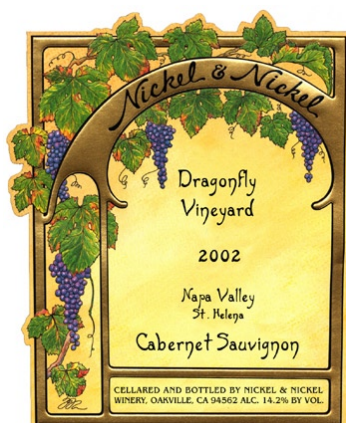


# WINE ENTHUSIAST

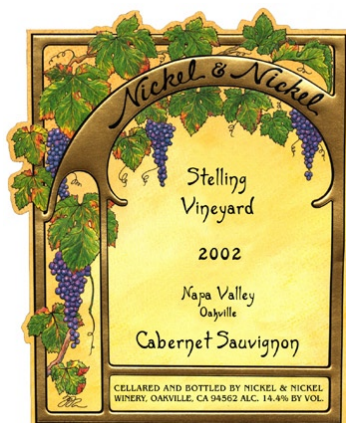
M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 1, 2005

## Buying Guide



**94 Nickel & Nickel 2002 Dragonfly Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** Decadent, hedonistic, all those adjectives don't do credit to the fancy way this Cab hits the mouth. It's Renoir in a glass. Soft but firmly structured and well oaked, the complex flavors range from cassis and vanilla to mocha and gingerbread, and are totally dry. Pure Napa Cab, although it's probably not an ager because of the softness.—*S.H.*



**92 Nickel & Nickel 2002 Stelling Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** This is the most expensive of N&N's current Cab lineup and also a remarkably good wine. It combines flamboyantly ripe fruit with a fine, rich structure and balance, although it's a little soft. The complex flavors of blackberries, blueberries and cherries are well-oaked, and the finish is long and spicy.—*S.H.*



**90 Nickel & Nickel 2002 Branding Iron Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Here's a bright, ripe and juicy Cabernet that impresses for its wealth of flavor and refined structure. It's bold in black currants, cassis and chocolate, with a rich layering of oak, yet maintains balance and elegance. Dry and soft, this is a wine to drink now and through 2006.—*S.H.*