



The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

NICKEL AND NICKEL	2006	CABERNET SAUVIGNON JOHN C. SULLENGER VYD.	OAKVILLE	RED	92+
NICKEL AND NICKEL	2006	CABERNET SAUVIGNON MARTIN STELLING VYD.	OAKVILLE	RED	92+
NICKEL AND NICKEL	2006	CABERNET SAUVIGNON STATE LANE RANCH	YOUNTVILLE	RED	90+
NICKEL AND NICKEL	2006	CABERNET SAUVIGNON VOGT VYD.	HOWELL MOUNTAIN	RED	91+

All four of these single vineyard offerings from Nickel and Nickel are in need of 4-6 years of bottle age, and appear to be long distance runners.

Made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, the **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Vogt Vineyard** comes from a 15-acre parcel high on Howell Mountain. In addition to its opaque blue/purple color, it exhibits tons of minerality, medium to full body, impressive depth, and abundant blue and black fruit characteristics intermixed with notes of flowers and crushed rocks. The wine is frightfully tannic, but there is enough concentration to balance it out. Forget it for 5-6 years and drink it over the following 25 years.

The dense purple-colored **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon John C. Sullenger Vineyard** (100% Cabernet Sauvignon) comes from an Oakville vineyard planted in clay and loamy soils. It reveals more of an Oakville/Pauillac-like character of cedar, spice box, licorice, black cherries, black currants, and camphor. While it is the most complex aromatically, the wine is still 4-5 years away from resolving some of its tannins. It is a big, full-bodied, powerful, impressive effort that should drink well for 20+ years.

The dense purple-hued **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon State Lane Ranch** (also 100% Cabernet Sauvignon) exhibits more chocolate, espresso roast, black fruits, underbrush, and tobacco leaf characteristics. Very promising, but slightly more austere in the mid-palate and finish than its siblings, it should drink well for 15+ years.

The most expensive offering is the **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Martin Stelling Vineyard**. This is actually the base wine for the Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon, with Nickel and Nickel culling out a small parcel planted in deep loamy, clay, and gravel soils. A big, pure Cabernet, it offers up abundant notes of *crème de cassis*, vanilla, spice box, forest character as well as plenty of tannin in the finish, 5-6 years of cellaring will be beneficial. It is potentially a 30-year wine.