

San Francisco Chronicle

PAIRINGS

THE CHRONICLE'S WINE SELECTIONS

**★★★ 2003 Nickel & Nickel
Dragonfly Vineyard St.
Helena Cabernet Sauvignon**

This 4-acre plot is located at the base of Spring Mountain, with a bit of extra warmth and gravel soils. A distinct sweet spot in the middle, with charcoal, dried leaves and ample fine tannin. Wood (44 percent new) is nicely integrated. Should keep improving over the next several years.

**★★★ 2003 Nickel & Nickel
John C. Sullenger Vineyard
Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon**

The Sullenger, Nickel & Nickel's home vineyard, gets the least new oak of its single-vineyard Cabs (42 percent), and the fruit shines through here, with a minerality in its core. Leathery, with ripe cherry, plum and cedar box. Bright, firm ending.