

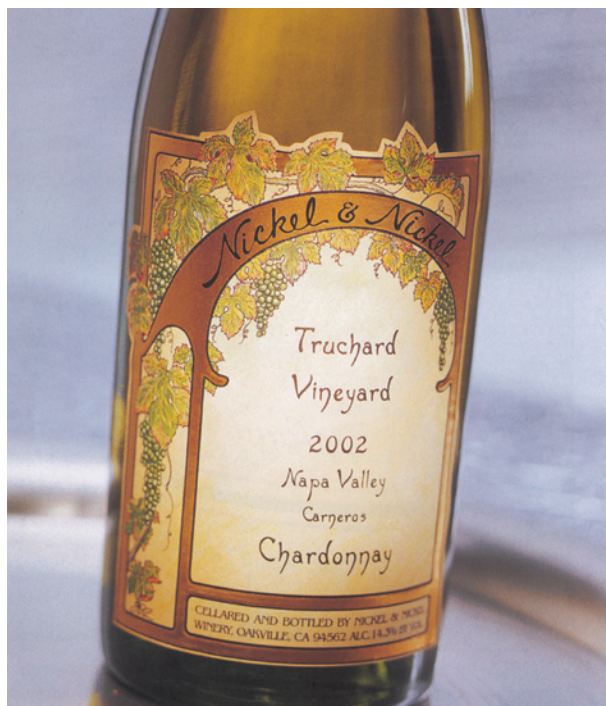
# THE WINE NEWS

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## California's best wines of the year

Text by STEVE PITCHER

### Chardonnay of the Year



#### CHARDONNAY

**1. Nickel & Nickel, 2002 Truchard Vineyard, Carneros (Chardonnay of the Year):** Rich aromas of tropical fruit, sweet Meyer lemon and succulent pear mingle with toasty oak, mineral and vanilla. Very soft on the palate with deep flavors of citrus, pineapple, pear and guava accented by oak spice and a vanilla flourish in the extended finish. This elegant Chardonnay did not undergo malolactic fermentation and thus retains a crisp acidity that heightens the flavors.

#### CHARDONNAY

*Far Niente, 2002 Napa Valley*

#### CABERNET Sauvignon

*Far Niente, 2001 Napa Valley*

*Nickel & Nickel, 2001 John C. Sullenger Vineyard, Oakville*

#### MERLOT

*Nickel & Nickel, 2001 Sori Bricco Vineyard, Diamond Mountain District*

### Wines Worth Seeking

#### CABERNET Sauvignon

*Nickel & Nickel, 2001 Stelling Vineyard, Oakville*

*Nickel & Nickel, 2000 Tench Vineyard, Oakville*

*Nickel & Nickel, 2001 Vogt Vineyard, Oakville*

#### SYRAH & PETITES

*Nickel & Nickel, 2001 Dyer Vineyard, Carneros*

#### CHARDONNAY

*Nickel & Nickel, 2002 Searby Vineyard, Russian River Valley*