

THE WINE NEWS

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Best of 2006

Text by STEVE PITCHER

Other Outstanding Cabs

Nickel & Nickel, 2003 Martin Stelling Vineyard, Oakville

Top Ten Merlots of the Year

Nickel & Nickel, 2003 Suscol Ranch, Napa Valley

Rich nose of black cherry-loganberry fruit, Oreo cookie, dried sage and sweet oak. Smooth and plump with medium-full tannins, and rich, concentrated flavors of berry, black cherry and cassis. Dried sage reappears in the extended close. A well-structured Merlot with exemplary varietal character.

Other Outstanding Chardonnays

Nickel & Nickel, 2004 Searby Vineyard, Russian River Valley

Nickel & Nickel, 2004 Truchard Vineyard, Carneros-Napa Valley