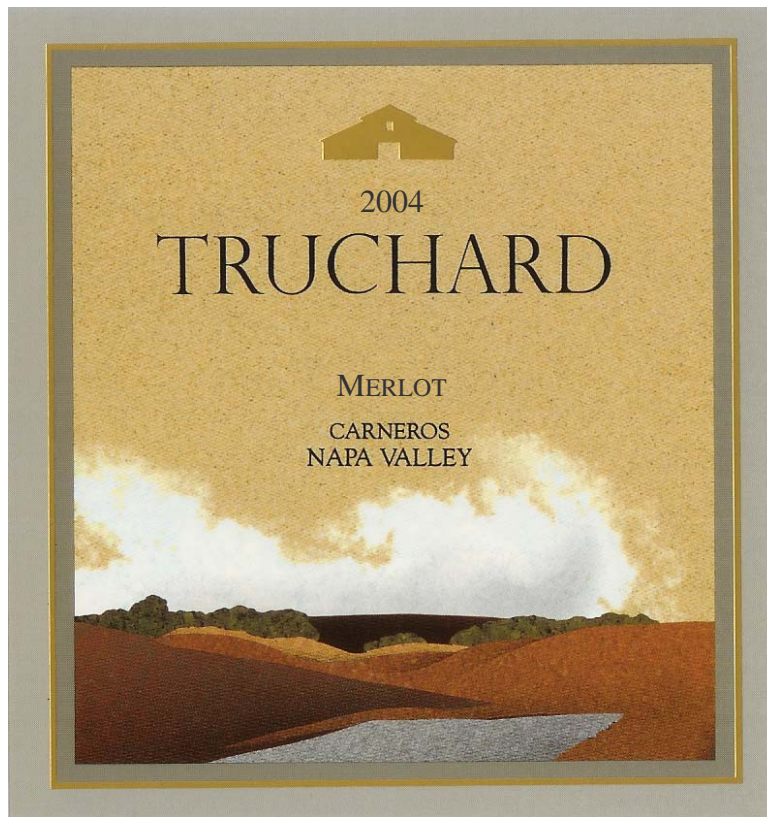


On Wine – Robert Whitley



Merlot represents a bargain among Napa Valley reds

2004 Truchard Carneros Merlot

I was given cause to reflect on the conventional merlot wisdom as I plowed through a recent tasting loaded with expensive Napa Valley cabernet sauvignons, most of which I rated highly. What caught my attention, however, was the smattering of merlots I sampled that day.

They were all very good, and three of them were made from Napa Valley grapes. The best of the bunch was the succulent **2004 Truchard** from Napa's Carneros district. (August 6, 2008)