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## Truchard Vineyards 2005 Syrah

**Wine of the Week**

**By Paul Lukacs**

Syrah, the classic red-wine grape from the Rhone Valley in France, can make truly riveting wines in America. The best are marked by satisfying deep fruit flavors enhanced by savory, peppery spice. Though many renditions taste simple and sappy, the best prove very compelling. This from Truchard definitely is one of those.

Though syrah grows in all sorts of climates, the best wines tend to come from fairly cool regions, places in which the grapes don't become too ripe and the wines too heavy. Carneros, at the southern end of the Napa Valley, abuts the cold San Francisco Bay, so temperatures there run considerably lower than elsewhere in Napa. That surely is one of the reasons why this wine seems so multifaceted and delicious.

Ready to drink now, Truchard's 2005 syrah also should age gracefully with five or so years of cellaring. Try it with hearty fall or winter dishes – meat stews, for example, or mushroom-based risottos or pastas. Few American syrahs taste anywhere near as good.

