



Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Truchard Vineyards

Merlot Napa Valley Carneros 2005

[Wine Whore Review:](#) 9.5/10 Points

All living things are a product of two factors: nature and nurture. Wine is no different. The nature of the soil and landscape create the foundation while the winemaking process nurtures the grapes into the final living product. Both factors combine to form one. The result is an experience that reminds us of the journey.

One vineyard features a canvas requiring modest nurturing or manipulation to be magnificent. The brilliant nature of this span of 383 contiguous acres creates wines natively intelligent. On 270 acres of this span which are planted grapes are sold to more than 20 premiere Napa Valley wineries. With 10 different grape varieties calling it their home, this is one of the most diverse estate vineyards in California.

What gives this terrain such an advantage?

A series of hills and valleys containing a variety of soils: clay, shale, sandstone, volcanic rock and ash. The various combinations of terrain, geology, and marine-moderated temperatures provide unique winegrowing conditions. Because of the excellence and demand of this vineyard, only 20% of the grapes from this landscape are reserved for their wine. It is in this way that [Truchard Vineyards](#) creates “wines with a sense of place”.

Vintage Info:

“After record winter rains, a dry spring allowed for good berry set and an average crop. Normal summer conditions slowly brought the fruit to maturity. The 2006 vintage produced fruity wines with bright aromas, intense flavors, and great structure.” -Truchard

Recommended Food Pairing:

To fully enjoy all of the character it contained, I tasted this wine entirely by itself. This Merlot is packed with fruit and just the right amount of gripping tannin for structure making it friendly to a range of pork, and beef dishes. Almost ‘Cabernet-like’ in personality, it is prepared to handle even the richest of meaty dishes.

Stats:

Producer: Truchard

Vintage: 2006

Varietal: 77% Merlot and 23% Cabernet Franc

Appellation: Carneros Napa Valley

Residual Sugar: 6.2 g/l TA

pH: 3.55

Production: 992 cases

Alcohol %: 14.2

Aging: 20 months in French oak barrels (35% new)

Wine Whore Score:

Excited to taste the newly released (February 1, 2009) Merlot from Truchard, I found this wine to be quite profound in nature. Fruity with balance and a long full finish makes it rather pleasurable to drink. Overall I was delighted to find the complex yet beautiful blend of body and tannin that I come to look for in a Cabernet confined within this Merlot.

This deep black cherry Merlot by Truchard is complex, sweet, plush, and well balanced giving it a score of 9.5 for taste and enjoyability. With a total of 34 out of 40 points and an average score of 8.5 out of 10 points you are sure to enjoy the fruity flavors wrapped in oak behind the label of this acclaimed vineyard. Spend some time with this wine and you will understand the quality of its nature and why it consistently garners much critical appreciation.

