

James Laube's Recommended California Chardonnays

For complete reviews, see the Buying Guide of this or previous issues or www.winespectator.com.
An alphabetical listing of all wines tasted for this report begins on page 132 of this issue's Buying Guide.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
LEWIS Chardonnay Napa Valley 2003 Ripe, rich flavors surround a core of pear, spiced apple and tropical fruits. Toasty, buttery oak on the finish.	96	\$37
DUMOL Chardonnay Russian River Valley Chloe 2002 Deep and complex, with rich, creamy pear, fig, hazelnut and vanilla flavors. Long, luxurious finish.	94	\$56
FISHER Chardonnay Sonoma County Mountain Estate Vineyard 2003 Rich, with ripe pear, fig, apricot and melon flavors and light oak nuances of hazelnut and spice. Long, complex finish.	94	\$45
LEWIS Chardonnay Napa Valley Reserve 2003 Rich and complex, with citrus, apple and pear fruit and smoky, toasty oak. Finishes with ripe, polished fruit.	94	\$56
MARCASSIN Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Marcassin Vineyard 2000 Balances rich and ripe lemon, citrus, pear, smoky hazelnut and nutmeg scents with an elegant, subtle mouthfeel.	94	\$90
DUMOL Chardonnay Russian River Valley 2002 Reveals fig, pear, apricot, melon and spice nuances. Hazelnut-scented oak joins in on the finish.	93	\$45
DUMOL Chardonnay Russian River Valley Isobel 2002 Rich fig, melon and honeysuckle flavors are viscous and layered with hints of lemon peel and hazelnut.	93	\$56
MARCASSIN Chardonnay Alexander Valley Alexander Mountain Upper Barn 2000 Offers a bouquet of fig, honeysuckle, anise and butterscotch flavors. Gains finesse and nuance on the finish.	93	\$60
PETER MICHAEL Chardonnay Sonoma County Belle Côte 2003 Flashy, with ripe pear and golden apple flavors and layers of spice and toasty oak. Elegant and restrained on the finish.	93	\$70
PETER MICHAEL Chardonnay Sonoma County Mon Plaisir 2003 Strikes a deft balance among the ripe, succulent pear, melon and apricot flavors. Shaded by a nice overlay of smoky oak.	93	\$NA
PATZ & HALL Chardonnay Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2003 Rich and multifaceted, with buttery pear and fig flavors that pick up a touch of smoke and vanilla. Mouthcoating.	93	\$50
STAGLIN Chardonnay Rutherford 2003 Bold, ripe and opulent, with rich pear, fig, apricot and hints of citrus, nutmeg and hazelnut. Rich and smooth.	93	\$60
STERLING Chardonnay Napa Valley Reserve 2002 Sleek, rich and elegant, with creamy pear, nutmeg, hazelnut and spice aromas. Silky, ending with mineral and citrus.	93	\$40
TANDEM Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Ritchie Vineyard 2002 Smoky fig, apricot, citrus and honeysuckle flavors are well-integrated with toasty vanilla and creamy oak. Roasted marshmallow on the finish.	93	\$42
TRUCHARD Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros 2003 Sleek and concentrated, with a core of lemon, citrus, pear, apple and a dash of hazelnut and nutmeg. Lively acidity.	93	\$28

