



**90 points**

**Carter 2004 Truchard  
Vineyards Merlot (Napa  
Valley)**

The grapes are from Carneros; the winemaker is the veteran Nils Venge. The wine is big and complex. Right now it's heavy, almost ponderous, a mixture of direct primary cherry, plum, coffee and oak flavors and sturdy tannins. But it's very balanced and elegant, and should begin to unfold its riches after 2007, and hang in there for a few years. —

**S.H.** *Published 5/1/2007*

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