



**90 points**

**Carter 2002 Truchard  
Vineyards Merlot (Carneros)**

Ripeness obviously wasn't a problem here, to judge by the spectacularly forward cherry and cassis flavors. The winemaker put a lot of oak on top. The result is a huge wine that lacks a bit of finesse. After all, size isn't everything. But it could surprise with a few years in the cellar. — **S.H.** *Published 8/1/2005*

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