

SAVEUR

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Meritage Milestone

Twenty years on, a few new-world winemakers are still breaking the mold.

2004 THE MARINER — *Dry Creek Valley*



Dry Creek
VINEYARD

QUINTESSA RUTHERFORD NAPA VALLEY CALIFORNIA 2004 (\$125). More concentrated than in previous vintages, but still possessing incredible finesse; a true Napa star that will benefit from cellaring.

CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE "ARTIST SERIES" COLUMBIA VALLEY WASHINGTON 2004 (\$48). Gratifyingly complex, with a lusciously long, layered finish.

DRY CREEK VINEYARD "THE MARINER"— DRY CREEK VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 2004 (\$40)
Deeply flavored, with a dark berry character and firm tannins, which should soften with a few years of bottle age.

ST. SUPÉRY "ÉLU" NAPA VALLEY CALIFORNIA 2003 (\$65). Exuberant but not excessive, with a silky finish.

RODNEY STRONG "SYMMETRY" ALEXANDER VALLEY CALIFORNIA 2004 (\$55). Powerful yet harmonious, with impressive length and complexity.

FRANCISCAN "MAGNIFICAT" NAPA VALLEY CALIFORNIA 2004 (\$50). More deeply flavored than in some vintages, with firm but pliant tannins.

ROBERT HALL "HALL RANCH" PASO ROBLES CALIFORNIA 2005 (\$40). Well-balanced and harmonious, though rich and very ripe; a succulent wine.

CASA RONDEÑA WINERY NEW MEXICO 2005 (\$23). Delicate but not frail, with nuanced subtlety; a delectable surprise.