



C H A R L E S C R E E K
V I N E Y A R D



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Las Patolitas 2001 Chardonnay

Sangiaco Vineyard, Sonoma County, \$20, 875 cases, has creamy aromas of peach, pear, and toast before smooth, round flavors of peach, pear, toast, and butterscotch with light accents of oak. The finish is long and medium-broad and adds spice. **Balanced, integrated, straight-forward, and easy to drink.**

2001 Miradero Merlot

Sonoma County, \$18, 150 cases, contains 12% cabernet franc. It is still young. It has a candied bouquet of raspberry, cherry, coffee, chocolate and vanilla introducing mouthfilling flavors of the same plus spice and a medium-broad, persistent, and increasingly spicy, peppery finish. If you give it several hours to develop and open it becomes smooth, almost unctuous, with a very rich bouquet and layers of black-berry black cherry, black raspberry, coffee, and dark chocolate on the nose to which the palate adds quince and spice plus deftly handled, supple tannins. The finish becomes long, medium-broad, and rich. There is a lot happening here with layers of flavors. **It is a better Merlot than some costing two to three times as much. Excellent. BEST WINE.**

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