



**VENTURA COUNTY STAR: Dec. 11, 2002**

**by Len Napolitano**

**"Labels to look for"**

**My recommendations...**

Charles Creek Chardonnay, "Las Patolitas" Sangiacomo Vineyard, Carneros, 2001. Rich apple and pear flavors with complex spices, underlined with a wonderfully smooth texture. Highly recommended. Approximately \$20.

Charles Creek Chardonnay, "Vista del Halcon" Hawk Hill Vineyard, Russian River Valley, 2001. Green apple acidity provides crisp, lean beginning and end to a soft, buttery middle. Approximately \$22.

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### You can choose perfect holiday gift for wine lover

By Len Napolitano  
December 11, 2002



Question: What wines make the best gifts?  
Answer: Giving a gift to a wine lover is relatively easy. Even if you don't happen to know what his or her favorite wine is, a bottle of fine wine is always appreciated. What's more, giving wine made by a small, little-known California winery can be a fun gift for the wine lover whose collection is comprised mostly of the more popular brand names.

Like most other gift-giving challenges, start with a price range that you're comfortable with. When it comes to wine, generally speaking, you do get what you pay for. Of course, there are exceptions, and many excellent wines can be found for less than \$12 a bottle, but finding these values will require some help from a reliable local wine retailer. But if you want to make an impression with a fine wine, whether from a small or large

The above wines are available at [www.charlescreek.com](http://www.charlescreek.com).