



brand at independent wine shops in Metro Detroit including Merchant's Fine Wine, Dearborn; Champagne's Wine Cellars, Warren; Holiday Market, Royal Oak; Kako's Market, Birmingham; Wilson's Market, Royal Oak.

#### **Educated Guess Napa Valley Chardonnay 2011, \$17**

This Chard is off the Oak Knoll and Napa Carneros appellations. It's fermented in both barrels and stainless steel and aged 10 months in French oak with a light toast. This wine is sooo Chardonnay — all the powerful flavors (green apple, pear, tart citrus) with a kiss of spicy French oak. It's a bright gold color and aromas resonate with tart fruit and a hint of oak. A portion goes through malolactic — just enough to give more nuances and texture on the palate. The acidity, however, is still on point. It's a \$17 wonder child.

#### **Educated Guess Carneros Pinot Noir 2012, \$25**

Dee-lish. You can taste this wine by holding the glass to your nose — intense cherry, strawberry, thimbleberry (are you from Michigan and know the Upper Peninsula berry?). Dusty tannins coat the palate. The fruit is balanced by good acidity. It has the finesse of a Burgundy Pinot on the palate. I really like this wine. It's from both Napa and Sonoma's Carneros district with some Napa Valley fruit as well. It is aged 12 months in French oak. It's an elegant Pinot packed with power.

*You can reach Sandra Silfven at [ssilfven@hotmail.com](mailto:ssilfven@hotmail.com).*

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