

NEYERS VINEYARDS

2007 Chardonnay 'Napa Valley' – I first met Will Nord in 1972, a few months after I moved to the Napa Valley. He was an instructor at the Napa Valley Junior College, teaching a class on viticulture. It was a class that attracted an odd cross section of students, from day laborers hoping to rise up to higher-level positions to bankers who saw a future in lending to prospective vineyard owners. Of course there were students like me -- people who were working in the industry and hoped to be vineyard owners some day. Will later became a key figure in the first French-owned winery development in the Napa Valley -- the sparkling-wine producer Domaine Chandon. A subsequent stint as County Planning Commissioner qualifies him to lay claim to success as an educator, a businessman and a public official. It's his role as the owner of Trio Vineyard in Yountville that brought this multi-talented man back into my life, however. We've been buying grapes from this property for well over a decade now, and we bottle the wine from it under our 'Napa Valley' label. The cool climate of this area, in south Napa Valley, provides the fresh, crisp acidity that we look for in our Chardonnay. The well-drained soil, with its deep gravel deposits, adds an intriguing mineral component that provides an additional level of complexity. I refer to this Napa Valley bottling of our Chardonnay as the 'Chassagne-Montrachet' of the mix.

