



2016 HARRIS VINEYARD

Merlot, Oakville, Napa Valley



VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

The 50-acre Harris Vineyard is located in western Oakville, just east of Branding Iron Vineyard. Nickel & Nickel's five acres are comprised of two blocks that offer a southern exposure and soil of gravelly clay loam. Thinning passes allow each cluster to hang freely, optimizing the trellis system, and taking advantage of the warm climate to reach full maturity.

HARVEST NOTES

The 2016 growing season proceeded as usual for Napa Valley with a nice spring that led to a warm summer. Budbreak was a few days later than last year and this trend continued throughout the season. Slightly cooler weather in May lengthened the bloom window but warm summer days in June and July helped the vines catch up to normal. The crop looked good with clusters that had a nice leaf coverage allowing for speckled light. August brought both cool and hot weather, so we kept a close eye on each block.

SENSORY EVALUATION

Bright red fruits, candied blueberry, Santa Rosa plum and menthol aromas all blend together to intoxicate the nose as the 2016 Harris Vineyard Merlot wafts from the glass. On the palate, a juicy and fruity entry is supported by chewy tannins and a balancing acidity, creating lush layers that coat the tongue and produce a soft, elegant finish.

APPELLATION

Oakville, Napa Valley

VARIETAL

100% Merlot

AGING

French oak barrels
(52% new, 48% once-used)

RELEASE DATE

March 2019

HARVEST DATES

September 29, 2016

SKIN CONTACT

14 days

TIME

17 months

FIRST VINTAGE

2000