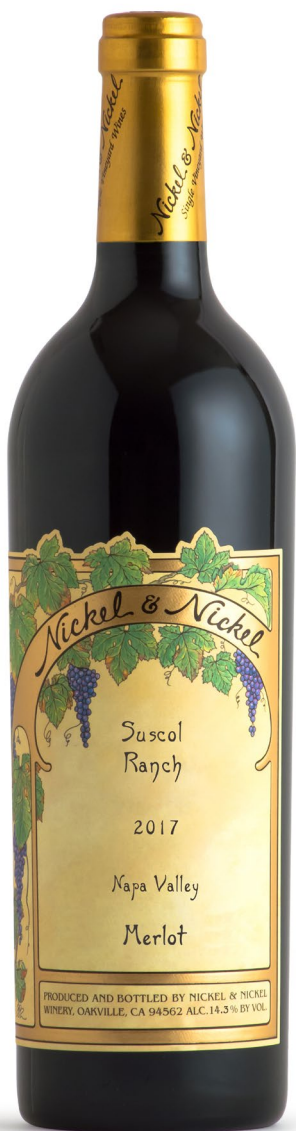




## 2017 SUSCOL RANCH

Merlot, Napa Valley



### VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

The nine-acre Suscol Ranch is located in Jamieson Canyon, south of the city of Napa. The area is very cool, with dense fog early in the season and windy conditions all year long. Planted on a gentle, north-facing knoll of deep, loamy soil, the vines are cordon trained to give the grapes maximum sun exposure. The cool conditions allow the fruit to mature slowly, gracefully developing flavors and mature tannins.

### HARVEST NOTES

The year began with a cold and much-needed wet winter, followed by a mild spring. April showers following budbreak resulted in hearty vine growth that only accelerated with the summer sun. The vineyards enjoyed a brief cooling period in August before a final heat spike over Labor Day weekend. The cool weather that immediately followed gave our fruit additional hang-time on the vine continuing phenolic development.

### SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2017 Suscol Merlot offers a perfect harmony of juicy and succulent flavors. A small swirl coaxes enticing aromas of dark plum, green olive and cedar from the glass. Earthy notes of tobacco leaf, olive, tar and spice blend nicely with the dark, sweet fruit. From year to year, this wine's distinctiveness lies in the lush, velvety tannins that expand upon the initial sip and develop with richness through the finish.

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### APPELLATION

Napa Valley

### VARIETAL

100% Merlot

### AGING

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

### RELEASE DATE

March 2020

### HARVEST DATE

October 3 & 7, 2017

### SKIN CONTACT

9 days

### TIME

14 months

### FIRST VINTAGE

1997