



2011 DARIEN VINEYARD

Syrah, Russian River Valley, Sonoma



VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Tucked into the gently rolling hills of Sonoma's Russian River Valley, Darien Vineyard enjoys a moderate climate and well-drained, loamy soils. The Syrah vines were planted in 2000 and 2001, and benefit from cool, foggy mornings that give way to warm afternoon sun from the southeast, allowing the exposed fruit to ripen evenly. The clusters tend to be fairly long in size and tightly packed. There are two different clones planted in the vineyard, each contributing its own unique flavors to the wine. Nickel & Nickel selects fruit from three-and three-quarter acres of the 25-acre vineyard.

HARVEST NOTES

In 2011, winter and early spring cloud cover delayed the year's growing season, but above average rainfall filled the reservoirs. Bloom occurred in June, which is the latest on record. We farmed the vineyard as we normally do, opening up the canopy to offer speckled light without exposing the fruit to sunburn. A cool summer without any heat spikes offered a slow ripening period, and the fruit looked beautiful on the vines. Without the extra heat, sugar levels remained low and we night-harvested the entire vineyard in mid-October when temperatures were quite cool.

SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2011 Darien Vineyard Syrah opens with lovely violet and floral notes along with the juicy meatiness inherent to the varietal. Flavors of berry and plum blend beautifully with earth and spice, creating a well-rounded medley of flavors on the palate. The wine's texture is rich and balanced allowing for a satisfying progression from front to finish.

APPELLATION
Russian River Valley, Sonoma

VARIETAL
100% Syrah

AGING
French oak barrels
(50% new, 50% once-used)

RELEASE DATE
March 2014

HARVEST DATE
October 12, 2011

SKIN CONTACT
12 days

TIME
17 months

FIRST VINTAGE
2002