



## 2014 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

2014 was a beautiful growing season in the Russian River Valley with a favorable spring that led to an early budbreak and bloom. The vineyards canopies were healthy and clusters were full of fruit. Leaves were pulled in the fruiting zone to balance sun and shared exposure on the fruit. The season progressed similarly to last year with few spikes in heat. This vineyard was night harvested in late September, and the delicate fruit was optically sorted to remove any small, under ripe berries that were hidden within the clusters.

### SENSORY EVALUATION

Powerful and intense, the 2014 Darien Syrah seduces with its earthy aromatics. Captivating flavors of fresh picked wild berries and crisp plum unfold on the palate alongside wet earth, cigar, toasted nuts, and forest floor. Rich flavor with supple tannins make this wine approachable upon release.

**APPELLATION**  
Russian River Valley

**VARIETAL**  
100% Syrah

**AGING**  
French oak barrels  
(56% new, 44% once-used)

**RELEASE DATE**  
March 2017

**HARVEST DATE**  
September 24, 2014

**SKIN CONTACT**  
10 days

**TIME**  
16 months

**FIRST VINTAGE**  
2002