



## 2016 BEAR FLAT

Merlot, Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley



### VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

This vineyard is located on the west side of the Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley. Well-drained loam soils gently slope toward the east, providing a nice exposure for the vines, while the cooler climate offers ideal ripening conditions.

### 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

Luxurious and silky with vibrant plum notes accented by hints of cedar and sage, the 2016 Nickel & Nickel Bear Flat Vineyard Merlot is one of our most exciting single-vineyard Merlot vintages to date. Layers of dark, juicy fruit and spice flavors are supported by supple tannins and subtle toasted oak notes. The wine is both powerful and elegant, with a lingering finish that lasts.

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### APPELLATION

Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley

### VARIETAL

100% Merlot

### AGING

French oak barrels  
(51% new, 49% once-used)

### RELEASE DATE

March 2019

### HARVEST DATE

September 29, 2016

### SKIN CONTACT

18 days

### TIME

17 months

### FIRST VINTAGE

2014