



## 2016 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

The 2016 growing season proceeded as usual for Napa Valley with a nice spring that led to a warm summer. Budbreak was about five 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

Delightful aromas of plum and baking spices leap out of the glass, as aromas slowly give way to tobacco leaf, roasted game, vanilla bean, and light cedar. On the palate, the wine is bright upon entry and well-structured with a dusty black fruit note rounding out the profile. Warm, toasted oak and chewy tannins support a finish that is luscious and long.

### APPELLATION

Russian River Valley

### VARIETAL

100% Syrah

### AGING

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

### RELEASE DATE

March 2019

### HARVEST DATE

September 16, 2016

### SKIN CONTACT

11 days

### TIME

17 months

### FIRST VINTAGE

2002

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