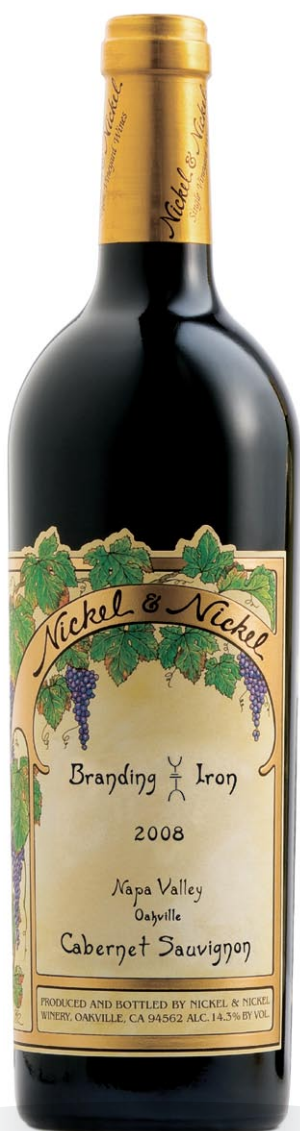




2008 BRANDING IRON VINEYARD

Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, Napa Valley



VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Named for the branding iron owned by the proprietor, the eight-and-a-half-acre Branding Iron Vineyard lies in western Oakville, close to the base of the Mayacamas Mountains. The vineyard is comprised of well-drained clay loam and the vines are vertically trellised to maximize sunlight and open the canopy. The area's warm climate and sun exposure in both the morning and afternoon is perfect for slowly ripening the fruit, which often benefits from a long hang time.

HARVEST NOTES

The 2008 growing season provided a variety of weather patterns that presented a few challenges, but ultimately resulted in some exciting wines. The year began with substantial rainfall, but was followed by a dry spell that actually put us behind normal precipitation levels. The longest frost season in decades followed, which lowered vineyard yields, but the remaining crop developed beautiful intensity. Very warm temperatures in mid-May gave way to a cool summer and warm September. Since Branding Iron has two different blocks, the fruit was harvested over a 10-day period to maximize fruit intensity.

SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2008 Branding Iron Cabernet Sauvignon has beautiful, ripe fruit flavors of plush berry and black cherry. Underlying hints of black tea and spice add interest, while the oak offers vanillin and toast. The most striking aspect of this wine is the thickness on the palate, which is a result of the ripe fruit and amazing, fine tannins. This depth of flavor is carried by the wine's classic structure into a long, lasting finish. The tremendous length and layering of flavors is a quality that we associate with this and other west Oakville vineyards.

APPELLATION

Oakville, Napa Valley

VARIETAL

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

AGING

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

RELEASE DATE

September 2011

HARVEST DATES

October 1 - 10, 2008

SKIN CONTACT

9 - 13 days

TIME

18 months

FIRST VINTAGE

2000

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