



2008 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 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. Darien Vineyard was night-harvested in late September to ensure that the fruit was cool and of optimum quality.

SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2008 Darien Syrah has abundant plum and berry fruit nestled in among the spice and smoke from the oak. Hints of mineral and meat character, typical of the varietal, complement the fruit. The vintage offers supple tannins that give body to the middle palate and round out the finish. This excellent progression of fruit, spice, toast, and roasted meat carried by those supple tannins has become the signature of this vineyard.

APPELLATION

Russian River Valley, Sonoma

VARIETAL

100% Syrah

AGING

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

RELEASE DATE

March 2011

HARVEST DATE

September 30, 2008

SKIN CONTACT

11 days

TIME

16 months

FIRST VINTAGE

2001