



Harris Vineyard *Merlot*

Vineyard Description Harris Vineyard is located in western Oakville, just east of the Branding Iron Vineyard. Nickel & Nickel's five acres are comprised of two blocks that offer a southern exposure and soil of gravelly clay loam. Thinning passes allow each cluster to hang freely, optimizing the trellis system, and taking advantage of the warm climate to reach full maturity.

Appellation Oakville (Napa Valley)

Year Planted 1991 and 1995

Varietal Merlot

Acreage 5 acres

Clone & Rootstock Two Merlot clones: Clone I and the Bear flat clone, both planted on 5C

Trellising Quadrilateral trellis system

Geology This vineyard is planted on a large alluvial fan that extends from the Mayacamas Mountains, across the Branding Iron Vineyard, into Harris Vineyard, and reaches all the way to the western edge of the Rock Cairn Vineyard. The vineyard's Bale soil series are developed on alluvial fans and flood plains, while the Clear Lake soil series are found on old alluvial fans derived from sedimentary rock. Both soil series can be found in this vineyard, giving it a gravelly clay loam.

Tasting Notes Characteristic of Oakville, this Merlot has a nice core of raspberry fruit, combined with notes of earth and spice. The sweet, toasty oak adds complexity and the firm, yet supple, tannins provide length to the finish.