

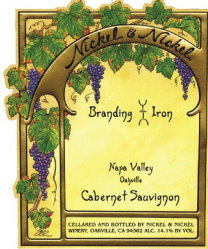
Nickel & Nickel
N&N
Single Vineyard Wines

BRANDING IRON VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON
2005

technical notes:

APPELLATION: Oakville, Napa Valley

HARVEST DATE: October 22, 2005



VARIETAL: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

SKIN CONTACT: 16 days

AGING: French oak barrels
(40% new, 60% once-used)

TIME: 17 months

RELEASE DATE: September 2008

FIRST VINTAGE: 2000

vineyard description:

Named for the branding iron owned by the proprietor, the four-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 2005 growing season was normal for this vineyard, with budbreak in late March and bloom in late May. Conditions were ideal during bloom and the vineyard had a good set, which resulted in a bit more fruit than last year. The summer months were moderate and we didn't get the few heat waves that really bump up the sugars. The canopy was opened up to allow for good light exposure on the fruit. Although there was a little heat in late September and early October, the fruit remained on the vine until late October to fully develop sweet, mature tannins.

sensory evaluation:

The 2005 Branding Iron is very fruity with flavors of blackberry and cranberry prevalent on the palate. This sweet fruit is accompanied by some peppermint and earth, while the oak offers up a warm toast and spice. The longer growing season this year allowed for good resolution of the tannins. The wine is fat and velvety with a long, coating texture that progresses into a warm, lingering finish.

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