

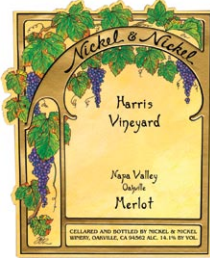
*Nickel & Nickel*  
**N&N**  
Single Vineyard Wines

HARRIS VINEYARD MERLOT  
2007

*technical notes:*

**APPELLATION:** Oakville, Napa Valley

**HARVEST DATES:** October 4 - 8, 2007



**VARIETAL:** 100% Merlot

**SKIN CONTACT:** 8 days

**AGING:** French oak barrels  
(46% new, 54% once-used)

**TIME:** 16 months

**RELEASE DATE:** March 2010

**FIRST VINTAGE:** 2000

*vineyard description:*

The 50-acre Harris Vineyard is located in western Oakville, just east of 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.

*harvest notes:*

2007 started off very dry with only 60 percent of the average rainfall early in the year. The season was normal with warmer soils for budbreak in early March and bloom in early May. Crop loads were average in this vineyard and small thinning passes were done to ensure crop uniformity. The summer months provided nice, moderate temperatures except for a heat spike in late August, which initiated sugar accumulation. The vineyard was well balanced between fruit and canopy and a good filtration of light in September led to well-developed fruit flavors in early October.

*sensory evaluation:*

Similar to last year, both open- and closed-top fermenters were used to produce the 2007 Harris Merlot, which emphasizes both fruit and palate feel. This classic Merlot has beautiful flavors of plum, sage, earth and cedar. It is a wonderfully balanced Merlot with a nice, sweet palate and soft, round tannins. The toast and spice contribution from the French oak integrates with the fruit, creating a round middle core. For those who love to drink Merlot, this is a classic for your cellar.

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