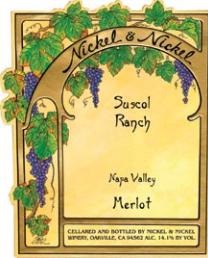


*Nickel & Nickel*  
**N&N**  
Single Vineyard Wines

SUSCOL RANCH MERLOT  
2007

*technical notes:*



**APPELLATION:** Napa Valley

**HARVEST DATE:** October 2, 2007

**VARIETAL:** 100% Merlot

**SKIN CONTACT:** 9 days

**AGING:** French oak barrels  
(43% new, 57% once-used)

**TIME:** 16 months

**RELEASE DATE:** March 2010

**FIRST VINTAGE:** 1997

*vineyard description:*

The nine-acre Suscol Ranch is located in Jamieson Canyon, south of the city of Napa. The area is very cool, with dense fog early in the season and windy conditions all year long. The vines are planted on a gentle, north-facing knoll of deep, loamy soil and are cordon trained to give the grapes maximum sun exposure. The cool conditions allow the fruit to mature slowly, gracefully developing flavors and mature tannins.

*harvest notes:*

The 2007 growing season commenced with budbreak in mid-March followed by the completion of bloom in the third week of May. Although we were at only 60 percent normal rainfall, this vineyard did not experience any adverse effects. Yields were down slightly this year, primarily due to smaller berries. The summer months were fairly cool except for a heat spike in late August, and bird netting was thrown over the rows so that the migratory birds didn't damage the crop. The longer September days and lower yields helped to ripen the fruit quickly and we harvested after the fruit had slightly dimpled.

*sensory evaluation:*

There is no mistaking this wine with any other. This 2007 Suscol Ranch Merlot has briary aromatics with a dark plum and wild berry flavor that is juicy upon entry. Layer upon layer of dust, earth, herb and cedar intermix with the fruit, creating a complex medley of flavors. Its unique, supple character is full and lively on the palate. From year to year, this wine's distinctiveness lies in the lush, velvety tannins that expand upon the initial sip and develop with richness through the finish.

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