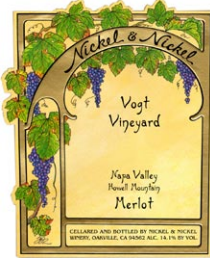


Nickel & Nickel
N&N
Single Vineyard Wines

VOGT VINEYARD MERLOT
2007

technical notes:



APPELLATION: Howell Mountain,
Napa Valley

HARVEST DATE: October 9, 2007

VARIETAL: 100% Merlot

SKIN CONTACT: 8 days

AGING: French oak barrels
(45% new, 55% once-used)

TIME: 16 months

RELEASE DATE: March 2010

FIRST VINTAGE: 2005

vineyard description:

Atop Howell Mountain lies a 15-acre vineyard that is a special place above the clouds. When the valley experiences the fog that moves in during the summer, this vineyard usually enjoys the warmth of the sun. This added heat is a blessing since the Merlot gets a bit less sun than the Cabernet Sauvignon due to the surrounding treeline. Tucked away in a little canyon, only 1.61 acres of the entire vineyard is planted to Merlot and these blocks are comprised of deeper, more fertile soils. The vines are small-to-moderate in size and yield very small, loose clusters with fairly thick skins.

harvest notes:

This was one of the earliest seasons to date on Howell Mountain, with budbreak occurring in mid-April and bloom in early June. Crop size was moderate, with small berries but larger clusters. A mild summer afforded nice weather for ripening and allowed the Merlot to mature evenly. Steady, warm temperatures in late September bumped up the sugar and flavors in the fruit and we waited to harvest until the nights turned cooler in mid-October.

sensory evaluation:

The 2007 Vogn Vineyard Merlot is a sweeter expression of the 2006 vintage with sweet, briary fruits and currant flavors that mix with the earth and tobacco, natural to this site. The French oak selection for this wine offers a roasted, spicy flavor that complements the fruit. Its Howell Mountain roots are definitely present, as this wine has a thick, coating mouthfeel from start to finish and all the components to age beautifully.

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