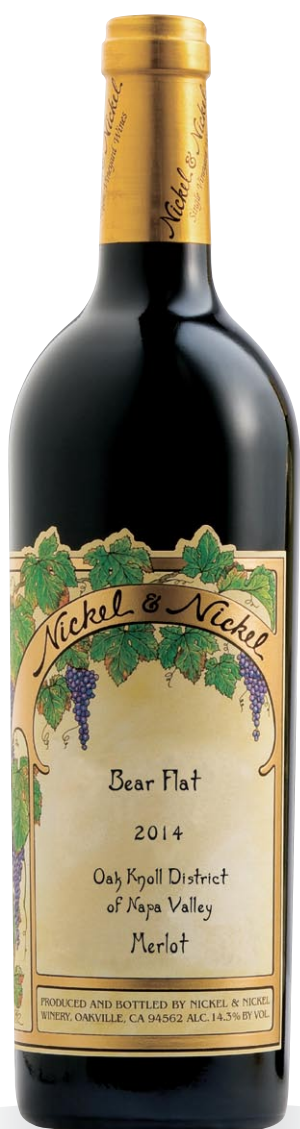




2014 BEAR FLAT

Merlot, Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley



VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

This vineyard is located on the west side of the Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley. Well-drained loam soils gently slope toward the east, providing a nice exposure for the vines, while the cooler climate offers ideal ripening conditions.

HARVEST NOTES

A beautiful growing season opened with a mild spring that led to an early budbreak and bloom. Despite the low rainfall, we saw healthy canopies and full clusters. As this was our first year with this vineyard, we spent time watching and learning about the fruit development. The summer months were moderate and leaves were pulled to give the fruit adequate exposure. Since the western part of the vineyard ripened ahead of the east, we harvested the two sides separately to capture the proper maturity throughout the block.

SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2014 Bear Flat Merlot combines the berry fruits from a warm region with the savory notes of a cooler growing area. The wine opens with aromas of plum, spice, and forest floor. Juicy fruit flavors pop upon entry and are followed by layered notes of cedar, fine herbs, and black olive. The texture is full, yet so smooth and beautifully balanced that the lingering fruit leaves you yearning for the next sip.

APPELLATION

Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley

VARIETAL

100% Merlot

AGING

French oak barrels
(58% new, 42% once-used)

RELEASE DATE

August 2016

HARVEST DATES

September 24 - October 3, 2014

SKIN CONTACT

8 - 10 days

TIME

17 months

FIRST VINTAGE

2014

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