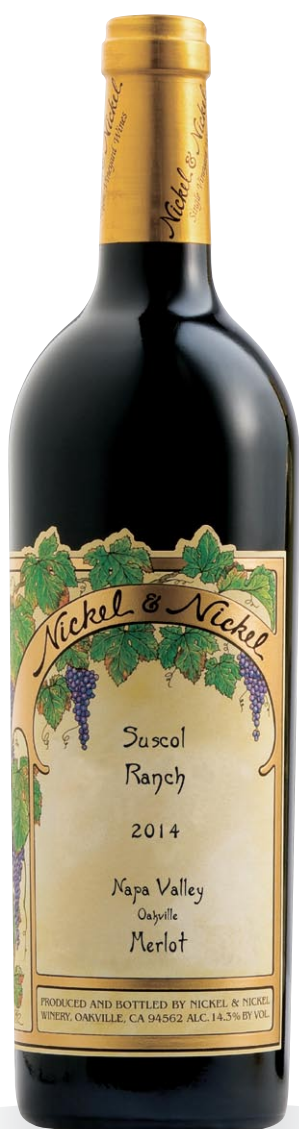




2014 SUSCOL RANCH

Merlot, Napa Valley



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. Planted on a gentle, north-facing knoll of deep, loamy soil, the vines 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

This was another beautiful growing season with an ideal spring that led to an early budbreak and bloom. The cooler southern Napa area was not as windy this year, and the fruit set beautifully. Despite the low rainfall, canopies were healthy and clusters were full. During the moderate summer months, we pulled leaves around the fruit to allow adequate exposure. The weather in this area is about 10 degrees cooler than northern Napa Valley and allowed for longer hang time. We harvested this vineyard at night in early October.

SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2014 Suscol Merlot offers a perfect harmony of juicy and succulent flavors. A small swirl coaxes enticing aromas of dark plum, green olive and cedar from the glass. Earthy notes of tobacco leaf, olive, tar and spice blend nicely with the dark, sweet fruit. 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. This wine pairs beautifully with food and benefits from a little bottle age in your cellar.

APPELLATION

Napa Valley

VARIETAL

100% Merlot

AGING

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

RELEASE DATE

August 2016

HARVEST DATE

October 4, 2014

SKIN CONTACT

9 days

TIME

17 months

FIRST VINTAGE

1997