Nickel & Nickel

A seamless expression of Rutherford terroir , this Cabernet showcases depth, elegance, and finesse in equal measure.

Nickel & Nickel
Single Vineyard Wines

94
James Suckling

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

C.C. Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The C.C. Ranch Vineyard lies in the heart of **Rutherford**, Napa Valley, a revered sub-appellation known for producing structured, plush Cabernet Sauvignon with the signature "Rutherford dust" character. Nestled along a gentle knoll west of the Silverado Trail, the site benefits from exceptional drainage due to its **gravelly loam soils**. These soils—combined with ample sunshine and diverse vineyard exposures—encourage even ripening and complex flavor development.

Nickel & Nickel selects **15 acres** from this expansive 115-acre estate to craft this single-vineyard wine, focusing on precision farming and vine balance. The canopy is meticulously managed to ensure optimal light exposure, crucial for full phenolic maturity.

Winemaking

The 2019 vintage began with spring rains that invigorated cover crops, enriching the soil with nutrients. Though the fruit set was lighter than average, this led to **exceptional concentration and aromatic intensity**. A **cooler autumn** allowed slow, steady ripening, avoiding overripe flavors while preserving balance.

Made from **100% Cabernet Sauvignon**, the wine underwent a **22-day skin maceration** to extract maximum color, aroma, and structure. Aging occurred over **16 months in French oak barrels**, with a 50/50 split between new and once-used oak. This judicious oak regime imparts structure and toast without overpowering the fruit purity.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep, concentrated garnet with purple hues.
- **Aroma:** Aromas of **plum and boysenberry** dominate the nose, layered with **floral and herbal nuances** that lend complexity and intrigue.
- **Palate:** A **creamy mouthfeel** envelops the palate, showcasing a broad spectrum of **ripe raspberry, plum, and spicy undertones**. The tannins are supple yet persistent, offering a graceful finish that speaks to the wine's **ageing potential and finesse**.

C.C. Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

Did you know?

Nickel & Nickel's **first vintage of C.C. Ranch** dates back to **2005**, making this a relatively recent but consistently celebrated addition to their single-vineyard portfolio. The vineyard itself, however, has deep roots in Rutherford's history, contributing to some of Napa's most acclaimed wines for decades.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled ribeye steak**: The wine's depth and ripe tannins make it a natural match for rich, marbled beef.
- **Lamb tagine with prunes**: The fruit-forward character harmonizes beautifully with the sweet-savory profile of the dish.
- **Porcini mushroom risotto**: Earthy flavors complement the Cabernet's savory complexity and creamy mouthfeel.
- **Aged Gouda or Comté**: Hard cheeses enhance the wine's texture and amplify its dark fruit notes.

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2020)

Very fine tannins with bright acidity yet soft at the same time. Redcurrants. Medium body. Polished and lightly savory. So pretty for a 2020. Drink or hold.

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2019)

Bright in cherry and cassis, with dusty crushed rock, dried herb and cedar playing along, this is a well-integrated wine in terms of oak and tannin. It is refined and structured, with tremendous complexity. Best from 2029–2034. Cellar Selection

Wine Spectator (WS) : 93 Points (2019)

Ripe and well-built, with a solid core of blackberry, black currant and melted black licorice notes that move in unison, picking up a subtle singed alder hint on the focused finish, with subtle juicy energy running all the way through.