



Nickel & Nickel

A bold and structured Cabernet from Yountville that balances intensity with polish, offering a focused snapshot of Napa's sun-drenched southern terroir.

Nickel & Nickel
SWK
Single Vineyard Wines

96
James
Suckling



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet
Sauvignon

State Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Located northeast of the town of **Yountville**, the **State Ranch Vineyard** stretches across 23 acres of rocky loam soils, divided by State Lane Road into distinct parcels. With a mix of older and younger vines, the vineyard benefits from **full sun exposure** throughout the day. The site's naturally **well-draining soils** and vine balance consistently yield low, concentrated clusters, ideal for crafting high-quality Cabernet Sauvignon.

Yountville's location in the southern part of Napa Valley offers a unique microclimate. While generally cooler than northern AVAs, its exposure to daily sunshine and warmer inland influence creates optimal conditions for **even ripening**. The result is a style of Cabernet that is **robust, ripe, yet nuanced**, with refined tannins and deep fruit character.

Winemaking

The 2020 growing season began with light winter rains and a dry spring, which led to **low cluster counts and small berries**—a combination that typically signals high concentration and flavor intensity. Summer remained moderate, with a few brief heat spikes. The vintage was notably impacted by the **2020 wildfires**, prompting meticulous monitoring for smoke taint. Harvest took place between **September 22 and 25**, with careful passes to pick rows at peak ripeness and quality.

Fermentation occurred in **small lots**, allowing close control and selective blending. The final wine was composed only of the best batches, ensuring a **pure and polished expression** of the vineyard.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep, opaque ruby with youthful purple hues.
- **Aroma:** Perfumed with **wild berries, black cherry**, and lifted **aromatic herbs**.
- **Palate:** Juicy and concentrated, unfolding with layers of **black plum, cassis**, and **clove spice**. The **polished tannins** create a smooth texture and support a long, silky finish.



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Did you know?

State Ranch first appeared under the Nickel & Nickel label in **2006**. Since then, it has become a cornerstone of the estate's single-vineyard program, prized for its consistent structure, ripeness, and age-worthiness.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb chops with rosemary:** The herbal lift of the wine enhances the aromatic crust of the meat.
- **Short rib ragu over polenta:** The richness of the dish matches the wine's depth and velvety tannins.
- **Mushroom and black truffle risotto:** A decadent pairing that mirrors the earthy notes and spice in the wine.
- **Aged Parmesan or Pecorino:** Hard cheeses highlight the structure and savory complexity of this bold Cabernet.

James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2020)



Blackcurrants, violets and other flowers. Cassis bush. Lavender. Medium-bodied with a beautiful center palate and layers of very fine tannins. Lovely length and harmony. You want to drink this one now.

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 94 Points (2019)



I loved the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon State Ranch. This Yountville beauty has a great nose of pure cassis and blackcurrant fruits as well textbook Cabernet notes of lead pencil shavings, chalky mineral, and tobacco. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and perfectly balanced, it has fine tannins and the class to evolve for 15 years or more.

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2019)



The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon State Ranch comes from a parcel in the center of the valley, but it's one that is relatively rocky and well drained, according to winemaker Joe Harden. Apparently, the vineyard is now owned by Thomas Keller. Delicate hints of sage and mint accent black cherries and blueberries on the nose, while the medium to full-bodied palate is defined by softly dusty tannins and ample, mouthwatering length. (JC)

