



DARIOUSH

SIGNATURE MERLOT
2004 VINTAGE ~ NAPA VALLEY

DARIOUSH DISTINCTION

Harvesting only intensely ripe fruit from low yielding vineyards on both the Darioush Estate and hillsides of Mt. Veeder provides our Merlot with depth, texture and aromatic complexities. Vineyard sites in cooler climates develop red fruit characteristics and a smoky-earth 'signature.'

TASTING NOTES

Introduced by sweet spice, perfumed violets, and wild berries, the palate unfolds with black cherries and a rich dark chocolate core. Approachable in its youth, this Merlot will age gracefully for 5-8 years.

VINIFICATION

- ~ Meticulous attention to detail in vineyard and cellar
- ~ Hand-harvested into small 28 lb. baskets
- ~ Hand-sorted twice, before and after de-stemming
- ~ Fermentation includes cold soaking for 4 days, with gentle pump-overs and extended maceration for optimal color extraction and tannin management
- ~ Barrel lots were racked 2-3 times per year for clarity with minimal handling

FOOD AFFINITIES

Grilled rack of lamb, spicy Italian sausage, pan-roasted duck breast, herb encrusted Ahi tuna, and aged cheeses.

COMPOSITION 92% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon

APPELLATION Darioush Estate Vineyards, Napa Valley, Oak Knoll, Mt. Veeder

COOPERAGE Aged 24 months in 70% new French oak barrels; 3 year seasoned Tronçais and Allier Forests, Bordeaux

WINEMAKER Steve Devitt

PRODUCTION 954 cases

PRICE \$44.00

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