

DARIOUSH

FROM THE ROBB CELLAR

*Fine wines and spirits worthy of
a place in your private collection.*

There is nothing quite like the Darioush winery anywhere else in California, except perhaps on the back lot of Paramount Studios, where Cecil B. DeMille once reigned. This building on Napa Valley's Silverado Trail was designed to evoke a vision of the ancient Persian capital of Persepolis, an allusion to the birthplace of proprietor Darioush Khaledi, who emigrated to the United States in the late 1970s from the Shiraz region of Iran, where the Syrah varietal originated. In the early 1990s, Khaledi built his winery of Persian sandstone, travertine, and glass at the end of a grand allée bordered by towering columns. The structure itself, nevertheless, is pleasantly modern and inviting: Soft music filters through the glass and stone interior, which resembles a trendy club more than it



does a tasting room. This blending of tradition with innovation defines not only the architecture, but also the character of the wines. While the estate's masterful Shiraz pays homage to Khaledi's birthplace, winemaker Steve Devitt's intense, vibrant Darioush Signature Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 is pure Napa: big, beautifully structured, and full of fruit. With a spicy nose of sandalwood, cedar, blueberry, and violet, this delectable red fulfills the promise of its aromas with waves of warm boysenberry and cool blueberry fruit infused with sweet rose essences and smoky Lapsang souchong tea.

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