



DARIOUSH

SIGNATURE MERLOT

2011 VINTAGE ~ NAPA VALLEY

DARIOUSH DISTINCTION

Darioush Merlot's depth of aromatic complexity is first and foremost a function of our estate vineyards and meticulous farming practices. Predominantly sourced from our 28-acre estate in the Oak Knoll appellation in southern Napa Valley, with smaller portions from Mt. Veeder, the soils and microclimates naturally restrict, concentrate and ripen this vigorous Bordeaux varietal.

TASTING NOTES

The wine is brimming with vibrant dark fruits, plum and blackberry, with delightful aromas of savory herbs, black tea and allspice. Bitter-sweet cocoa and hazelnut spices from barrel aging along with small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Franc all add lushness, complexity and texture to the final blend.

VINIFICATION

- ~ Meticulous attention to detail in vineyard and minimal cellar handling
- ~ The grapes were hand-harvested at night into 28 lb. baskets to insure cold, whole cluster fruit and preserve aromatic complexities
- ~ Hand-sorted twice, both before de-stemming and after to achieve very clean, consistent fruit
- ~ Fermented in a combination of opened top and closed top fermenters. Fermentation includes cold soaking for 4 days, with gentle pump-overs and extended maceration for optimal color extraction and tannin development.
- ~ Aged 20 months in a combination of French and Hungarian oak barrels with barrel to barrel racking. The wine received minimal handling to the bottle.

COMPOSITION 89% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc

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

COOPERAGE Aged 20 months in 75% new French and Hungarian François Frères oak barrels

WINEMAKER Steve Devitt

AVAILABILITY 1089 cases

PRICE \$50.00

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