

## Signature Merlot



## DARIOUSH DISTINCTION

Aromatic complexity and typicity is a hallmark of Darioush Signature Merlot. Our meticulous vineyard practices, the unique microclimates and soils from our Southern Napa Valley vineyards atop Mount Veeder and on the Valley floor naturally restrict, concentrate and carefully ripen this noble Bordeaux variety to coax a plush yet focused wine.

## TASTING NOTES

Alluring fragrances of lavender, plum and incense introduce the sleek and statured 2013 Signature Merlot. A juicy core of black cherry, blackberry liqueur, dried raspberry and anise are framed by earth-laden notes of cola bean, graphite and pipe tobacco. Hints of cocoa dust, cinnamon and ground espresso caress the finish. Lent by a significant contribution of mountain-side fruit, its structure and remarkable finely knit, ripe tannins reveal the age-worthiness of this elegant Merlot from a superlative vintage.

## VINIFICATION

Hand-harvested at night into 28 lb baskets to ensure cold, whole clusters and preserve aromatic complexities. Hand-sorted twice, both before and after de-stemming for consistent fruit quality. Fermented in traditional closed top fermenters, including cold soaking for 4 days, with gentle pump-overs for optimal color extraction and tannin management. Aged 20 months in a combination of French oak barrels, with minimal barrel-to-barrel racking. With meticulous attention to detail in the vineyard and cellar, the wine was minimally handled through bottling.

**COMPOSITION** 97% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc,  
1% Malbec

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

**WINEMAKER** Steve Devitt

**AVAILABILITY** 2,871 cases

**PRICE** \$58.00

