

Darius II



DARIOUSH DISTINCTION

The Crown Jewel of the Darioush estate, Darius II captures the diverse and exquisite beauty within each vintage. With an uncompromising commitment to crafting a wine with complexity, composure and refinement, Darius II is the hallmark of the Darioush style.

TASTING NOTES

2013 Darius II rewards our decades-long pursuit of producing wines with remarkable seamlessness, grace and power from Southern Napa Valley. Exhibiting a classic Cabernet Sauvignon varietal profile from its cool, marine-influenced Mount Veeder origins, this exceptional vintage provides alluring aromatics of black cherry, incense and Tuscan leather intermingling with saturated dark fruits. A dense, savory, earthbound entry transitions seamlessly into flavors of blackberry pie and bittersweet cocoa with notes of cinnamon and sage. Even at a youthful stage, ripe and refined tannins indicate the potential for immediate as well as long term gratification. A long, cascading finish reveals a beautifully composed wine with a lifted quality that has become synonymous with Darius II.

THE VISUAL HALLMARK OF DARIUS II

The 2013 Darius II release marks a milestone partnership. Darioush and London's Victoria & Albert Museum have joined together in a common cause, to feature ancient traditions in Persian Art. The time-honored works held in the V&A's archives span thousands of years of creativity and reflect the craftsmanship and integrity of Darius II.

2013 Darius II bears a detail from a man's cloak or Aba, woven in Kashan, Iran in the 1870s.

COMPOSITION 90% Cabernet Sauvignon,
6% Malbec, 4% Merlot

APPELLATION Sage Vineyard - Mt Veeder
Apadana Block - Darioush Estate

COOPERAGE Aged 20 months in 100% new Taransaud
Chateau Traditional French oak barrels

WINEMAKER Steve Devitt
Michel Rolland, consulting

PRICE \$245.00

RELEASE DATE May 2016



Darius II

VINTAGE

The 2013 growing season rewarded the meticulous vineyardist with fruit of exceptional quality. Despite drought conditions, soil moisture was recharged following spring rains and mild temperatures through bloom, setting an even and ample crop. From veraison to the harvest, a long, even, rain-free growing season contributed to remarkable flavor development and textbook chemistries. Diurnal temperature swings were vital - consistently warm sunny days followed by cool evenings further intensified flavor while retaining freshness and gradually ripening tannin.

WINEGROWING

Farming on Mount Veeder means farming microclimates. Our 22-acre Sage Vineyard is comprised of 31 different blocks each with unique soils, water and sun requirements. With a combination of state-of-the-art technology and feet on the ground, we adapt meticulous vineyard management practices to optimize water and nutrient delivery. Vine-specific data and canopy management, overseen by Steve Devitt, enables a balanced ecosystem and consistent ripeness across a diverse vineyard site. The 2013 growing season marks the first opportunity to dry-farm many blocks of Sage, a 7-year weaning process which allows the resulting wines to be more site-expressive - displaying the powerful aromas and flavors of their hillside origins.

VINEYARDS

SAGE VINEYARD ESTATE

Mount Veeder AVA, 22 acres

ELEVATION: 1800-2200 feet

ACQUIRED: 2007

Distinguished by its altitude, rugged topography and proximity to the San Pablo Bay, this Southern Napa Valley vineyard benefits from mineral-rich, volcanic soils and cooling, maritime influences. Wines from this site show complexity and structure with a fair measure of tannin to support long-term aging.

APADANA BLOCK, DARIOUSH ESTATE

Napa Valley AVA, 4.7 acres

VINE AGE: 17 years

ACQUIRED: 1997

Sitting on the southeast corner of the winery estate on Silverado Trail, the Apadana Block is home to the oldest vines of this Southern Napa Valley vineyard. Wines cultivated from this site are reflective of mature vine age - expressing a plush, round and seamless profile.

THE LABEL

In a culture-bridging gesture intended to build recognition for Persian Arts in the West, a gift of 74 exemplary textile works was delivered to the South Kensington Museum, now the Victoria and Albert Museum, from the Shah of Iran in 1877. The gift which now adorns 2013 Darius II, is a masterwork of silk tapestry dyeing, weaving and needlework technique that has evolved over centuries.

Brought to Ancient Persia via the Silk Road from Central Asia, use of metal threads and brilliantly dyed silk thrived since the Sassanian Empire of the 1st C. AD when silk worms were introduced to the region. Color was as meaningful as technique - here, rich indigo symbolizes the sky and eternity, while yellow dyes produced by saffron, turmeric, sumac and pomegranate skins signify piety.

