

Signature Merlot



Darioush Distinction

The unique terroir of our rocky, volcanic, higher-elevation Mount Veeder estate combines a cooler marine influence and exceptional sun exposure to naturally concentrate, ripen and reduce yields of this vigorous Bordeaux varietal - providing Merlot fruit with greater depth, texture and aromatic complexity.

Tasting Notes

Violet, lavender and clove-scented aromas introduce this surprisingly dynamic and well-structured Merlot. Succulent dark plum, fig and blueberry fruits are concentrated and persistent, and intermingle with toasted almond, leather, licorice and earthy spices. Exceptionally balanced and rewardingly complex for Merlot, the wine promises many years of ageing and evolution.

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 24 months in a combination of French oak barrels with barrel to barrel racking. The wine received minimal handling to the bottle.

COMPOSITION 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc,
5% Cabernet Sauvignon

WINEMAKER Steve Devitt

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

AVAILABILITY Limited Library Release

