

Signature Merlot



DARIOUSH DISTINCTION

Rocky, well-drained volcanic soil, a marine influence and the due east sun exposure describes the terroir of our unique Mt. Veeder estate. Vineyards planted on the steep hillside balance the ripeness and yield of one of the most vigorous of the Bordeaux varietals—providing the fruit and resulting wine, with great depth, texture and aromatic complexity.

TASTING NOTES

The moderate 2008 growing season yielded small amounts of mature, highly-concentrated Merlot. The resulting wine offers a profile of dense, expressive dark fruit- black raspberry, cherry and dried fig supported by a tight core of dark cocoa, licorice and cola. Sweet, succulent tannins add textural complexity, while a beautiful, long finish reveals notes of rosemary, cinnamon and graham cracker.

VINIFICATION

With meticulous attention to detail, Darioush Signature Merlot is farmed and hand-harvested into small 28 lb. baskets, clusters and berries are hand-sorted twice, before and after de-stemming. Fermenting took place in traditional closed top fermenters, including cold soaking for 4 days, with gentle pump-overs for optimal color extraction and tannin management. The wine was aged 22 months, with barrel-to-barrel racking, in a combination of French oak barrels. The wine was minimally handled through bottling.

COMPOSITION	90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc	WINEMAKER	Steve Devitt
APPELLATION	Darioush Estate Vineyards in Napa Valley, Oak Knoll and Mt. Veeder	PRICE	\$88.00

