



# 1999 Darioush Signature Merlot Napa Valley

Release Date	Spring 2001
Vineyard Location	100% Darioush Estate Napa Valley
The 1998 Growing Season	A mild winter with above average rainfall led to a mild spring and early bud break. A cool summer led to a late harvest with additional grape hang time, adding to varietal complexity.
Varietal Composition	100% Merlot
Brix @ Harvest	24.5°
Alcohol	13.9%
Cooperage	100% French Oak from Chateau Ferre; Alliers, Troncais and Nevers Forests
Vinification	Small lot, destemming, with 30% whole berry. Cold soaking for 36-48 hours in small fermentors. Pumped over through primary fermentation until completion. 7-20 days post alcoholic fermentation maceration. Pressed fraction kept separate. Pumped into barrels after 48 hours of settling. Aged 22 months in French Oak with barrel to barrel racking. Bottled with minimal handling.
Food Affinities	An elegant complement to grilled, marinated lamb with spicy couscous, herb-encrusted rib roast, roasted pork or grilled duck in a port sauce.
Winemaker's Comments	Supple, elegant and rich, this single vineyard 1998 Merlot displays flavors of sweet, dense black cherry fruit. French oak aging adds hints of herbs and black licorice. An expansive explosion of fruit that lends itself to immediate appeal but should continue to develop beautifully until 2010. <b>112 cases produced.</b>