



# DARIOUSH

## 2003 SIGNATURE SHIRAZ NAPA VALLEY

### TASTING NOTES

We have always believed that Shiraz has the potential to match the structure, complexity and age-worthiness of the great Napa Valley Cabernets, while maintaining its inherent spirit of spicy, dark fruit. The 2003 Darioush Signature Shiraz is a polished, graceful, yet substantial wine that will challenge both old and new world perceptions of what a Shiraz can be.

This exceptional vintage combines luxurious, dark fruit and exotic spices from the old vines in our Ashley Vineyard with the elegant structure and minerality from our Estate Vineyard. Saturated flavors of wild blackberries and pomegranate, complemented by a spice-box of cinnamon stick, clove, white pepper and sandalwood incense, culminate in a silky finish that lingers on the palate for more than thirty seconds. The 2003 Darioush Signature Shiraz is an unforgettable, soul-stirring wine that will continue to evolve over the next decade.

### VINIFICATION

All lots were hand-harvested, hand-sorted and destemmed with 30% whole berry retention after slight maceration. Cold soaked for 72 hours in open and closed top fermentors. The wine was pressed at dryness with the press fraction kept separate and racked to barrels after 48 hours of settling. Each lot received barrel to barrel racking twice through aging. The vintage was bottled with minimal handling.

### FOOD AFFINITIES

A marvelous companion to aged beef tenderloin, hearty stews, Middle-Eastern spiced lamb or any savory game dish.

### APPELLATION

Darioush Estate Vineyards in Napa Valley and Oak Knoll

### VINTAGE

2003

### COMPOSITION

100% Shiraz

### COOPERAGE

Aged in new French oak, 3-year seasoned Château barrels coopered in Bordeaux from the forests of Tronçais and Allier

### WINEMAKER

Steve Devitt

### PRODUCTION

1664 cases

### RELEASE PRICE

\$64.00