DARIOUSH

SIGNATURE MERLOT
2005 VINTAGE ~ NAPA VALLEY

DARIOUSH DISTINCTION

The heart of this wine is grown in our rocky, marine-influenced vineyard at the peak of Mt. Veeder. This unique site is planted on steep, well-drained volcanic soils where the vine struggles to achieve balance, ripeness and character that is only attained from cool climate vineyards.

TASTING NOTES

A combination of savory lavender, cinnamon stick and dark cherry aromas introduce this distinctive Merlot. Luscious blackberry, plum, espresso and earthy dark chocolate flavors are supported by ripe and refined tannins. The resulting wine displays a satisfying textural component with great depth and fruit concentration.

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

~ Fermentation includes cold soaking for 4 days, with gentle pump-overs and extended maceration for optimal color extraction and tannin management

~ Aging and elevation was in a combination of French oak barrels, produced to exemplify the character of the Merlot grape, for 20 months with quarterly barrel to barrel racking. The wine received minimal handling to the bottle.

STUART BRIOZA, EXECUTIVE CHEF
RUBICON RESTAURANT, SAN FRANCISCO

"The diverse style of the 2005 Merlot from Darioush pairs well with the Smokey-Sweet-Salty flavors of Pork Belly with Dates & Hazelnuts. It also compliments perfectly Roasted Rack of Lamb with earthier flavors of a Farro & Bean Ragout."

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COMPOSITION 96% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc

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

COOPERAGE Aged 24 months in 70% new French oak barrels from Troncais and Allier Forests

WINEMAKER Steve Devitt

PRODUCTION 1,912 cases

PRICE $64.00