



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

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

**COOPERAGE** Aged 22 months in 70% new French oak barrels from Tronçais and Allier Forests

**WINEMAKER** Steve Devitt

**AVAILABILITY** 846 cases

**PRICE** \$46.00

# DARIOUSH

## SIGNATURE MERLOT

2008 VINTAGE ~ NAPA VALLEY

### 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

- ~ 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 22 months in a combination of French oak barrels with barrel to barrel racking. The wine received minimal handling to the bottle.

RENEE-NICOLE KUBIN, SOMMELIER  
GARY DANKO, SAN FRANCISCO

"This is a stunning wine, filled with other-worldly spice, ripe fruit, and layer upon layer of complexity that leaps out from the glass over an evening of conversation— food is optional!"

4240 SILVERADO TRAIL, NAPA, CA, 94558 USA  
T 707.257.2345 WWW.DARIOUSH.COM