



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

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

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

WINEMAKER Steve Devitt

AVAILABILITY 1,390 cases

PRICE \$46.00

DARIOUSH

SIGNATURE MERLOT

2009 VINTAGE ~ NAPA VALLEY

DARIOUSH DISTINCTION

The unique terroir of our rocky, volcanic, higher-elevation Mt Veeder estate combines a cooler marine influence and exceptional sun exposure to naturally concentrate, ripen and reduce yields of this vigorous Bordeaux varietal—providing Merlot fruit with greater depth, texture and aromatic complexity.

TASTING NOTES

Violet, lavender and clove-scented aromas introduce this surprisingly dynamic and well-structured Merlot. Succulent dark plum, fig and blueberry fruits are concentrated and persistent, and intermingle with toasted almond, leather, licorice and earthy spices. Exceptionally balanced and rewardingly complex for Merlot, the wine promises many years of ageing and evolution.

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 24 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