



# DARIOUSH

## 2003 SIGNATURE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY

### TASTING NOTES

The true signature of a wine, its character and sense of place, is born in the vineyard. Grown in the cooler-climates of southern Napa Valley and upon the rocky slopes of Mt. Veeder, our Cabernet Sauvignon's 'Signature' will always be its graceful combination of rich, concentrated fruit, earth and spice complexity with the well-integrated, age-worthy structure found in the world's most collectible wines.

Enticing aromas of wild berries and flavors of crème de cassis, espresso and bittersweet chocolate tantalize the palate and are complemented by cedar-spice and sweet vanillin notes. Velvety tannins add graceful support to the wine's supple richness and concentration. Best served decanted in its youth, it will age wonderfully until 2015.

### VINIFICATION

Meticulous attention to detail and minimal handling are the centerpoints to our vinification process. All vineyard lots are gently hand-harvested into small baskets. At the winery, the clusters are sorted for consistency both before and after de-stemming to ensure consistent fruit quality. Fermentation includes cold soaking for four days, with gentle pump-over 'irrigation' and extended maceration for optimal color extraction and tannin management. All vineyard lots and pressed wine components are kept separate for evaluation throughout barrel aging. Barrel lots were racked 2-3 times per year and blended and bottled without filtration.

### FOOD AFFINITIES

Grilled sirloin with braised leeks, roasted pork tenderloin, pepper-coated rack of lamb, risotto with smoked duck breast. An excellent accompaniment to blue-veined cheeses and mildly spicy or fusion dishes.

### APPELLATION

Darioush Estate Vineyards in Napa Valley, Oak Knoll and Mt. Veeder

### VINTAGE

2003

### COMPOSITION

85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec

### 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

4795 cases