

DARIOUSH



2015 Darius II Cabernet Sauvignon NAPA VALLEY

DARIOUSH DISTINCTION

The Crown Jewel of the Darioush estate, Darius II captures the diverse and exquisite beauty within each vintage. With an uncompromising commitment to crafting a wine with complexity, composure and refinement, Darius II is the hallmark of the Darioush style.

TASTING NOTES

2015 Darius II Cabernet Sauvignon echoes the remarkable complexity and seamlessness of its predecessors while expressing the vibrancy and generous fruit characteristic of the 2015 vintage. Layered aromas of blackberry liqueur, incense, and licorice introduce this provocative yet harmonious wine experience. With depth and intensity on the palate, Darius II expresses its provenance as a predominately hillside Cabernet Sauvignon blend – abundant black fruits, black currants and plum – mingle with savory, energetic notes of Darjeeling tea, five-spice, dried orange peel and finely-ground espresso. A flourish of soft, seamlessly integrated tannins adds texture; Darius II Cabernet Sauvignon finishes long, with persistent cedar, tobacco, and sweet oak.

THE VISUAL HALLMARK OF DARIUS II

In the spirit of sharing, Darioush and London's Victoria and Albert Museum have joined together to feature ancient traditions in Persian Art. With collections unrivaled in their scope and diversity, the time-honored works selected from the V&A archives span thousands of years of creativity and capture the craftsmanship and integrity of Darius II.

THE LABEL ART

Echoing the intricacy and vibrancy that distinguishes the 2015 vintage from its predecessors, this label depicts an elaborately embroidered linen scarf from the 18th century, held in the V&A's world-class collection of Middle Eastern textiles. Explorer Marco Polo, on his 13th century Silk Road journey through Kerman, in southeast Iran, shared that the ladies of the country were producing "excellent needlework in the embroidery of silk stuffs in different colors with figures of beasts and birds, trees and flowers, and a variety of other patterns." From the 1720's onwards, Ottoman embroidery became a genuinely creative art form – new, naturalistic floral motifs were introduced and depicted in great detail. The colors used to embroider this textile were originally bright and vibrant, which have faded over time to pleasing pastel shades.

COMPOSITION

86% Cabernet Sauvignon,
12% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc

APPELLATION

Sage Vineyard - Mt Veeder,
Apadana Block - Darioush Estate,
Pritchard Hill

WINEMAKER

Steve Devitt,
Michel Rolland (consulting)

AVAILABILITY

Limited Library
Release

DARIOUSH

2015 Darius II Cabernet Sauvignon

N A P A V A L L E Y

“Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Darius II has a black forest cake and crème de cassis-scented nose with notions of grilled bread, sautéed herbs, cardamom and cedar chest. Medium to full-bodied, there’s a lot to love in the mouth, with bags of baked berries and savory flavors on offer...”

Rated 91-93 | Robert Parker Wine Advocate

VINTAGE

Though lower in yield than the three ample vintages preceding it, 2015 will be remembered as a year of superb quality for our estate-grown wines, and for many Napa Valley AVAs. A warmer than average winter and climatic conditions at bloom resulted in a shy-bearing vintage overall, yet, as the season progressed, as we tended and coaxed the very best from our vineyard sites, it was evident that vibrancy, intensity, and depth would distinguish this vintage. Our hillside sites - atop Mount Veeder at Sage vineyard and on Pritchard Hill - fruit benefitted from slower ripening and longer hang-time. Diurnal temperature swings were vital – consistently warm sunny days followed by cool evenings further intensified flavor while retaining freshness and gradually ripening tannin. On the southern end of the valley floor, where the winery estate is situated, the older-vine Apadana Block Cabernet Sauvignon showed highly concentrated flavors and remarkable depth of character early, resulting in one of the earliest harvests on record.

WINEGROWING

Farming on Mount Veeder means farming microclimates. Our 22-acre Sage Vineyard is comprised of 31 different blocks each with unique soils, water and sun requirements. With a combination of state-of-the-art technology and feet on the ground, we adapt meticulous vineyard management practices to optimize water and nutrient delivery. Vine-specific data and canopy management, overseen by Steve Devitt, enables a balanced ecosystem and consistent ripeness across a diverse vineyard site. We dry-farm many blocks of Sage Vineyard which allows the resulting wines to be more site-expressive – displaying the powerful aromas and flavors of their hillside origins.

PRIMARY VINEYARDS

Sage Vineyard Darioush Estate, Mount Veeder Appellation

22 acres | Elevation: 1800-2200 feet | Acquired: 2007

Distinguished by its altitude, rugged topography and proximity to the San Pablo Bay, this Southern Napa Valley vineyard benefits from mineral-rich, volcanic soils and cooling, maritime influences. Wines from this site show complexity and structure with a fair measure of tannin to support long-term aging.

Apadana Block Darioush Estate, Napa Valley Appellation

4-7 Acres | Vine Age: 18 years | Acquired: 1997

Sitting on the southeast corner of the winery estate on Silverado Trail, the Apadana Block is home to the oldest vines of this Southern Napa Valley vineyard. Wines cultivated from this site are reflective of mature vine age – expressing a plush, round and seamless profile.

SECONDARY VINEYARD

Pritchard Hill-Sourced Cabernet Sauvignon

4 Acres | Elevation: 1400 feet | Vine Age: 13 years

Selected from this high altitude sub-region east of Oakville for its concentration and luscious character, this sourced Cabernet Sauvignon comprises <10% of the blend. Chosen to complement the structure of Sage Vineyard-grown Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.