

DARIOUSH



2016 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

Summoning incredible depth and density with its exquisite opaque color, 2016 Darius II bares its mountainous origins with lovely aromatics— crushed violets, Kirsch, crème de cassis and incense-laced black fruits. Primary flavors of black raspberries, wild blueberries and warm plums usher in an earth-laden core of black truffles, fresh tobacco, licorice and steeped oolong tea. While luscious and full-bodied, the wine exhibits an effortless tension between decadent fruit, earth tone and vibrant acidity. It's poised and polished, with a certain finesse that carries across its sturdy frame of fine, seamless tannins. Lively, spiced notes of garam masala rise to punctuate the impressively long finish.

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

The first towns and cities in history grew up along the Silk Roads, where great empires exchanged goods, ideas, languages, and faiths across the thousands of miles that linked the Pacific and Mediterranean with Central Asia and Persia. The 14th-century textile selected to adorn 2016 Darius II exemplifies this rich history and cultural exchange. Woven in Iran with silk and gold thread using a traditional 2-person drawloom, it reflects design influences from the Far East and Italy. Luxurious fabrics were a staple commodity in international trade at this time, this textile was destined for Europe where it was fashioned into a ceremonial church garment which ensured its preservation, making it one of the largest surviving 14th-century Iranian textiles of its kind.

ROBERT PARKER WINE ADVOCATE | RATED 99

"The 2016 Darius II sparks both hedonistic and cerebral appreciation by exuding profound scents of preserved plums, blackberry compote, blueberry pie...cigar box, Indian spices, fragrant earth, truffles and licorice. Full-bodied, bold and decadently fruited in the mouth, the palate delivers rich black fruit and spicy layers with a firm yet velvety frame and an epically long, earth-laced finish."

COMPOSITION

81% Cabernet Sauvignon
11% Merlot
8% Cabernet Franc

APPELLATION

Sage Vineyard – Mt Veeder
Apadana Block – Darioush Estate
Pritchard Hill, Spring Mountain
Howell Mountain

WINEMAKER

Steve Devitt
Michel Rolland (consulting)

PRICE

Limited Library
Release



2016 Darius II Cabernet Sauvignon

N A P A V A L L E Y

ABOUT THE VINTAGE

The 2016 vintage marks the fifth consecutive year of superb quality for Napa Valley grape growing—a winemaker's idyll. This vintage's prestige lies in its small yields of significant density and concentration with nuanced varietal character and soft, ripe tannins. Winter rainfalls naturally invigorated the vines— setting them up for what would become a remarkably even growing season. Although temperatures were cooler relative to the 2 preceding vintages, the 2016 growing season benefitted from even fruit-set, followed by a series of mild, sunny days in July and August and warmer weather leading up to harvest. The resulting fruit grown from our winery estate, at the southern end of the valley floor, revealed textbook ripeness and flavor development. The cooler mountain-side lots— namely Sage Vineyard atop Mount Veeder, and contributing Cabernet Sauvignon-sources from Pritchard Hill, Spring Mountain and Howell Mountain benefitted from longer hang-time and slow, even ripening on the vine.

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.

ESTATE VINEYARDS

Sage Vineyard, Mount Veeder Appellation

Contributes 40% of the overall blend | 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 Dariosh 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 VINEYARDS

Pritchard Hill | Contributes 15% of the Cabernet Sauvignon blend | Elevation: 1400 feet | Vine Age: 14 years

Selected from this high-altitude sub-region east of Oakville for its concentration and luscious character, Cabernet Sauvignon from Pritchard Hill enjoys ample sunlight from the southwestern exposure, moderated by cooling afternoon winds. Chosen to complement the structure of Sage Vineyard-grown Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, Pritchard Hill is revered for its dark, aromatic and powerful characteristics.

Spring Mountain AVA | Contributes 15% of the Cabernet Sauvignon blend | Elevation: 2000 feet

One of the first established grape-growing regions in Napa Valley, Spring Mountain's topography is also one of the most varied and unique. It was named for the abundance of natural springs throughout, which contribute significant irrigation to many vineyards in the microregion. The Spring Mountain AVA is known for wines with complex, yet soft tannins.

Howell Mountain AVA | Contributes 15% of the Cabernet Sauvignon blend | Vine Age: 20 years

Located in the Vaca Mountain Range, on the eastern side of Napa Valley, Howell Mountain's high altitude and steep, rocky terrain causes significant vine stress. The resulting fruit is intense with firm tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon is particularly admired for its complexity and earthy, dusty traits.

