

Girard

NAPA VALLEY

1999

NAPA VALLEY RED

Richly textured, our Cabernet blend is bursting with blackberry, currant and black cherry flavors followed by cinnamon and licorice overtones. The Cabernet Franc presence is noted with a lingering blueberry flavor supported with hints of creamy oak. This wine is very much like the best of the 97 vintage with incredibly soft tannins and a silky smooth middle and finish that is almost chocolate like in texture.

The blend consists of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Cabernet Franc and 18% Merlot with all of the fruit coming from the Napa Valley. We took our grapes primarily from Oakville using a combination of hillside and valley floor fruit. Total cases made: 3,985.

Winemaking

Our grapes were hand sorted and gently crushed. We used native yeast for fermentation and the wine underwent malolactic fermentation in the barrel. Aged 24 months in French oak and then bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. **Alc 14.3%, PH 3.759, TA .66g/100ml**

Press

Wine Spectator **Highly Recommended, 91 points.** Tight, dense and richly flavored, with firm currant, chocolate and blackberry flavors that are sharply focused, revealing extra layers of depth and dimension. Firms up on the finish, where the tannins flex their muscles. Best from 2004 through 2012. -J.L., **Also ranked as one of the best Cabernets under \$50.00**

Wine Enthusiast **Editors Choice, 92 Points.** A terrific wine that defines midvalley balance, harmony and style. Casis & smoky oak flavors describe the objective characteristics, but can't convey the feeling of plushness and class. Some dusty tannins suggest holding through 2004.

Robert Whitley, Copley News Service **Exceptional, 93 Points** "Though this red meritage blend is but 50 percent cabernet sauvignon, it is anything but meek. The '99 Girard offers up a heaping serving of good old Napa Valley depth and concentration, the characteristics that have made this 30-mile strip of Northern California agriculture America's mecca of red wine. It's rich and full-bodied, loaded with dark fruit complexities and nuances of anise and cinnamon. One of the better Napa reds for the money. Cab Franc and Merlot complete the blend."

Wine & Spirits Magazine **90 Points, Highly Recommended,** Big and rich right in the middle, then closed off from view, this young wine hasn't extended the length of its flavor yet. But there's already plenty of depth to the cherry liqueur scents, the plush and gentle texture, the green herb edges. It all points to a wine that should grow more elegant, lengthening over the next ten years.

Connoisseur's Guide **One Puff,** This big, plush slightly supple youngster displays a certain sense of juicy fruit that very much suggests Merlot, but its sturdy structure and undisguised tannin is all Cabernet in character.