



1996

VIADER

Napa Valley

59% Cabernet Sauvignon

41% Cabernet Franc

TASTING NOTES:

“...The opaque, purple-colored 1996 offers a gorgeous nose of black fruits, flavors, and minerals, it possesses splendid intensity and harmony, with all of its acidity and tannin seamlessly meshed into a long finish with no hard edges.”

The Wine Advocate – Robert M. Parker, Jr. – Issue 114 (12/19/97) 91-94pts

“...Young and grapey, with beautiful fruit and lots of plum, cherry, berry, and floral notes, finishing in a wonderful aftertaste.”

The Wine Spectator – James Laube – (6/15/97) 95-100pts

CELLAR NOTES:

The cellaring and aging of Viader wines involves in-barrel malolactic fermentation, barrel to barrel racking approximately every three months, toppings weekly and real egg-white light fining. The wine is unfiltered. Up to 2/3 new barrels, tight grained French and Russian oak were used for 21 months of barrel aging. Winemaking consultants: Tony Soter and Mia Klein

VINEYARD NOTES:

Rather than running the vine rows closed to contour in terraces, vineyard rows run up and down the hillside with a slope of 32% at the 1100 ft. elevation on Howell Mountain, approximately 2.5 miles northeast of St. Helena in the Napa Valley. Volcanic-Forward/Aiken soils offer perfect drainage (no sub-soil clay...mostly loams with significant gravels: cobbles and/or rocks!) and the orientation of rows in east-west fashion maximize sun exposure without burning the fruit, that remains protected by the vertically trellised canopy, as traditionally done in Bordeaux. Close spacing of vines (6x4') allow a density of 2000 vines/acre which provides good root competition without too much stress to the vine. Yields are naturally low balancing small berries with higher skin to juice ratio (and more flavor development). The vineyards are hand-labored and organically farmed (no chemicals used) – all of this – in order to maintain that fine balance between struggle and survival which results in grapes, and finally wines, of great character and distinction similar to those of the St. Emilion region in France.

Release date: September 1998

Case production: 2,200 cases

President/Owner/Vintner/Winemaker/Workaholic (and single parent of four)

“A One-Woman Show”: Delia Viader