

VIADER

NAPA VALLEY

2012 DARE by Viader Cabernet Franc

In 2003, owner/winemaker Delia Viader “dared” to produce her first varietal Cabernet Franc from the VIADER Estate to showcase her favorite variety as an equally thrilling, accessible, and balanced wine. Our DARE by Viader wines are created with the intention that they be enjoyed young, offering bright fruit and approachability from the first taste to the last drop.



WINEMAKER'S NOTES:

Sweet ripe red and black fruits dominate both the palate and the nose. Bing cherry, raspberry, plum. Chocolate. Softer herbal notes of lavender, tarragon, fennel, and anise. Violets, creme brulee, and pencil shavings (classic characteristic of this varietal). Silky smooth, viscous, medium-bodied, fruit-forward, with a very soft finish. Extremely approachable. Drink now or over the next 5 years.

FOOD PAIRING SUGGESTIONS:

Try it with Bark No. 72, slightly savory bittersweet chocolate by Mariela Viader.

WINE INFORMATION:

The current vintage wine is accessible because of its wealth of fruit and suppleness of tannin, and is aged for a total of 12 months, with the first six months *sur lees*, in French Oak barrels.

Winemakers: Delia & Alan Viader (son)

Production: 487 cases

2012 GROWING SEASON:

Starting off with a long wet winter and early spring, the 2012 growing season saw a later budbreak in mid-April when the weather took a dramatic turn and got rather warm for most of the spring. Long periods of warm, dry weather allowed vines to grow and fill the canopy at a steady pace. This excellent weather pattern gave the vines an opportunity to produce a much larger crop than 2011 while maintaining a balanced maturation cycle throughout the season. Warmer weather leading up to harvest led to rapid phenolic and sugar accumulation. The benefits of a larger canopy (due to the heavy rains early season) were really apparent late in the summer as temperatures reached triple-digits (100° F). The canopy protected the grapes from direct exposure while allowing us to wait until they reached optimal maturity. Night-harvesting started at the beginning of October with Cabernet Franc and we picked the last block of Petit Verdot on October 20th.

In general, **wines of the 2012 vintage are exploding with rich ripe fruit, balanced with firm structure, and overall elegance.**