



# Girard

## 2017 ARTISTRY NAPA VALLEY

### WINEMAKING NOTES

The 2017 growing season was not like the past few vintages; it wasn't particularly "easy" or "by the book" but it was an opportunity flex our grape growing and wine making skills and we remain proud of the high-quality wine we produced in this vintage. The year began with abundant rainfall. Spring weather was mild, resulting in extended flowering. A freak hail storm passed through quickly in June causing isolated damage. A warm summer was punctuated by three heat events, including one over Labor Day weekend, which kicked harvest into high gear by early September. Cool weather arrived immediately afterward, allowing sugar levels to return to normal and affording the grapes additional hang-time on the vine. Fermentation temperatures were kept deliberately low to retain fresh fruit flavors and color extraction. Carefully selected French oak barrels rounded out the lestage (or barrel aging) process, ensuring a wine rich character and complexity.

### VINEYARD NOTES

We source Cabernet Sauvignon for this blend from St. Helena, Oakville, Diamond Mountain and Pope Valley, areas for our Artistry blend for their ability to offer rich and supple fruit flavors with well-integrated tannins. Merlot from Yountville and Rutherford lend lush fruit components while our primary sources for Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot from Pope Valley allow for longer hang time. Our Petite Verdot tends to be our last fruit brought in, allowing for complex character and tannin development while the Yountville Malbec adds mid-palate weight and juiciness. The artful blend of grapes come from both hillside and valley floor vineyards, providing rich texture, balance and integrated tannins. Every year, this blend is perfected to showcase the very best of each year's harvest.

### TASTING NOTES

Every year, Artistry showcases the beauty and elegance of blending varieties and regions into one unified expression. The 2017 Artistry is lively on the nose with elegant aromas of black cherry, black currant and cigar box aromas. The palate is richly layered with flavors of blueberry, black plum, brioche and dried herbs. Velvety tannins mark the supple and lengthy finish which is gilded by baking spice.

### ABOUT THIS WINE

For over four decades Girard has produced a "red wine" blend from our best barrel lots. In 2003 we found a fitting name for this blend that promotes the artistic side of winemaking. It is in the blending process that we feel "Artistry" finds its best representation.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 12% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 2% Malbec

APPELLATION Napa Valley | OAK AGING 20 months in French oak, 50% new

ALCOHOL 14.5% | PH 3.76 | TA 6.7 g/L | RESIDUAL SUGAR 1.0 g/L | PRODUCTION 630 cases