

Kuleto

ESTATE

2016 SANGIOVESE

NAPA VALLEY

Kuleto is one of the most complex and diverse wine producing properties in the world. Located in the volcanic mountains of eastern Napa our estate features 781 total acres and 82.9 acres of vines perched along ridges and clinging to steep hillsides. Our soils, exposures, elevation changes and sub-climates are so complex that we've delineated our property into more than 100 micro-blocks. Each of these tiny plots is treated as an individual vineyard with varieties, clones, rootstocks, density, trellising and farming methods tailored specifically to the site.

For winemaker Gio Verdejo, there is a mutual understanding that all but a small percentage of the winemaker's work is done in the vineyard. Keeping the vineyard's serpentine twists and exposures in mind, the best-suited varietals for each block have been selected. Working with the land, not against it, the individually terraced lots are not oriented to one central direction, but instead are planted to maximize the benefits of their natural location.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Vintage 2016 gave us yet another beautiful vintage in the Napa Valley. This is following the fabulous vintages of 2012-2015. Marked by a few late-season heat spells, the wines are as opulent as the 2012s, with the concentration of the 2014s.

At Kuleto Estate, three clones of Sangiovese are planted in three separate blocks and each bring a unique character to the blend. The Deloreto selection is perhaps the most unusual with its saturated bright red color, floral notes, and tremendous acidity. The Trentadue and Shafer selections contribute mouth-filling tannin and deeper, darker aromas and flavors. In 2015, we co-fermented a portion of the Sangiovese with some Zinfandel to flesh out the mid-palate and provide some even darker aromatic highlights.

Our 2016 Sangiovese is a wonderful representation of warm days on our mountain estate. On the nose, aromas of bright cherry, strawberry and ripe tomato lead to savory notes of tealeaves and dried herbs. The palate offers vibrant acidity and is swarming with flavors of fresh red fruit and clove spice from the Hungarian oak aging. Well-developed tannins fill the mouth and lead to a very smooth finish.

TECHNICAL DATA

Varietal Composition 80% Sangiovese, 16% Zinfandel, 4% Petite Sirah

Vineyard Kuleto Estate | Alcohol 14.5%

Aging 18 months in 20% new Hungarian oak puncheons | pH 3.70 | TA 6.3 g/L

Production 305 cases (12 x 750 ml)