

Kuleto

E S T A T E

2016 SYRAH

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 John Clews, 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 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.

We at Kuleto Estate still don't understand why Syrah isn't more popular with the average consumer. It's certainly one of our top sellers in our tasting room, probably because it's always an in-house favorite. There are few places in the Napa Valley with the right combination of shale soils that limit a naturally vigorous variety, constant winds that interrupt bloom yielding open clusters, warm days, cool nights – all of which add up to perfect growing conditions for this primally evocative grape variety. I say 'primally' because Syrah has an animal-like nature with its smoky charcuterie elements and its wet stone-like character. Dark and inky in the glass, our 2016 Syrah offers bold aromas and flavors of wild blueberries, cherry cola, black pepper and lavender. This vintage, we co-fermented it with a portion of Petit Verdot for additional depth and structure. It was aged for 18 months in larger format barrels (500L rather than 225L) without racking to preserve its essence.

TECHNICAL DATA

Varietal Composition 76% Syrah, 24% Petit Verdot

Vineyard Kuleto Estate, 1100 - 1250 feet elevation | Alcohol 14.5%

Aging 18 months in 30% new Hungarian François Frères 500 L puncheons

pH 3.7 | TA 6.1 g/L

Cases Produced 374 (750 ml)