

Kuleto

E S T A T E

2018 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 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 dozens of 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 Giovanni 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

The 2018 growing season was one of the mildest and smoothest in recent memory. Mild spring weather led to good fruit set in most varietals and moderate weather throughout the year made for ideal growing conditions. There were no major heat spikes, which gave us longer hang-time and great ripening on the vine. While a fairly long harvest, the 2018 crop delivered fruit with complex flavors and was of excellent quality.

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. We say 'primally' because Syrah has an animal-like nature with its smoky charcuterie elements and its wet stone-like character.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2018 Syrah is a dark ruby color in the glass and offers rich aromas and flavors of blackberry, fig, licorice, fresh coffee beans and a hint of citrus. A well balanced, medium-bodied wine with silky tannins and a lively acidity. Notes of spice and earth linger on the smooth finish.

TECHNICAL DATA

Varietal Composition 100% Syrah
Aging 20 months in 26% new French, American and Hungarian oak
Alcohol 15.2% | pH 3.74 | TA 6.8 g/L
Production 92 cases (12 x 750 mL)
Bottling Date 1/21/21