

# Kuleto

E S T A T E

## 2018 CABERNET FRANC

### 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.

At Kuleto Estate, we prize our Cabernet Franc for its ability to retain its varietal character no matter the vintage. In the coolest or dampest of vintages, the sweet herbal component balances perfectly with lower alcohol and balanced acidity. In the warmest of vintages, it becomes like cherry candy in the nose and mouth with just a hint of its true cabernet character. Our 2018 vintage showcases a dark purple color. Flavor notes of cherry, crushed pepper, roasted coffee, green olive, and licorice are present on both the nose and palate. Smooth tannins and vibrant acidity are followed by an elegant, lingering finish.

#### TECHNICAL DATA

Varietal Composition: 100% Cabernet Franc

Aging: 26 months in 50% new French oak barrels

Alcohol: 14.0% | pH: 3.94 | TA: 5.9 g/L | Cases Produced: 96