



FLORA SPRINGS



2015 WINEMAKER NOTES

The Sangiovese which dominates this Tuscan-style red blend is sourced from a vineyard in the southern end of Napa Valley where the cooler microclimate allows the grapes to maintain good structure and acidity. The other varieties in the blend – Syrah and Merlot – are from slightly warmer, mid-valley vineyards. This is a warm, juicy, fruit-forward wine with loads of upfront blueberry, ripe plum and black cherry laced with notes of cedar, spicy brown cardamom and vanilla. Aged primarily in large oak ovals, the wood influence stays in the background, but there is a pleasurable, mouth filling roundness to the palate that belies its time in the barrel. This is a delicious wine with relatively light tannins, a bright mid-palate and a long-lasting finish. It can easily be paired with vegetarian quiche or risotto as well as grilled meats and roasted or barbecued chicken.

ALL THE FACTS

Appellation: *Napa Valley*

Varietal: *75% Sangiovese, 20% Syrah, 5% Merlot*

Cases Produced: *355*

Aging: *16 months in a combination of large oak ovals and small oak barrels*

Suggested Retail Price: *\$40*

Enjoyability: *Drink now through 2027 for optimum enjoyment*

ON THE VINE

The 2015 vintage in Napa Valley will be remembered for high quality but low yields. The growing season began with warm temperatures in late winter and early spring resulting in an early bud break. In May, colder temperatures during bloom caused fruit set to be uneven, yielding a much smaller crop compared to earlier vintages. Winemakers and vineyard managers worked closely together as the season progressed to ensure grapes ripened uniformly. The harvest, which was in full swing by mid-August, was one of the earliest on record in Napa Valley, and most vintners completed picking by mid-October. Although the continuing drought was a concern around California, Napa Valley received 75% of its annual rainfall average in 2015 making it less worrisome for Napa vintners.