

For more than three decades, the Artist Series remains the ultimate expression of artistry and fine winemaking by blending the finest Cabernet Sauvignon produced in Sonoma County.



ARTIST SERIES

2012 Artist Series Cabernet Sauvignon



THE ARTIST

Nathan Wirth brings to his photographic explorations of “place” an unending wonder for the fundamental fact of existence and a deep appreciation of art and poetry. Primarily focusing on the landscapes of Marin and Sonoma counties, Wirth explores their silences and sublimities through the ever-varying presence of light. With *Kenwood Morning*, Wirth captures the silence and light of a cloudy spring morning he spent among the vines of Kenwood Vineyards, a morning experienced in solitude, one in which the light, in all of its poetic grace, insisted on continually breaking through the clouds and illuminating the landscape.

winemaker's notes

PROFILE

Composition: 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec

Appellation: 65% Sonoma Valley, 11% Alexander Valley, 11% Knight's Valley, 7% Dry Creek Valley, 6% Lake County

Aging: 26 months French oak barrels

Acidity / pH: 6.51 / 3.50

Alcohol: 14.5%

Production: 1,494 cases

Bottled: July 2015

THE WINE

Deep in color, this wine unveils fragrant fruit aromas of cassis, black cherry and vanilla that join with complex notes of hazelnut and violet. These powerful flavors are matched by a dense palate that stays smooth through the long, lingering finish. While already approachable, this wine promises additional evolution with cellaring.

Since its first vintage in 1975, Kenwood Vineyards Artist Series has represented the “best of the best” of our Cabernet Sauvignon. Each year select vineyards located throughout Sonoma County’s premier Cabernet appellations are picked at the peak of flavor and then carefully crushed, fermented, and aged. After two years of barrel aging the winemakers taste through all of the individual vineyard lots and select barrel by barrel the most flavorful wines to make up the Artist Series blend.

The vintage of 2012 started with a dry and mild spring which gave way to a summer with nearly perfect growing conditions that produced fruit of exceptional quality. The fruit was harvested over the course of several weeks in late September/early October as each vineyard block attained its maximum flavor and ripeness. The blend is made primarily from Cabernet Sauvignon grown on our Carriger and Lone Pine estate vineyards that are located in the southern Sonoma Valley. These vineyards give the wine its intense flavor and ageability. The remainder of the Cabernet Sauvignon was sourced from the northern Sonoma County appellations of Alexander Valley and Knight's Valley; this fruit provided the full body and excellent finish. To complement the Cabernet Sauvignon, small amounts of Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec were added to the blend.

After bottling, the wine was given an additional 14 months of aging in the bottle before release. Although the blend is very drinkable now it will continue to improve in the bottle for at least a decade.

Enjoy Responsibly

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