



# Girard

## 2015 ARTISTRY NAPA VALLEY

### WINEMAKING NOTES

Despite a smaller crop overall (compared to the previous few years) and a continuing drought, the 2015 harvest developed into another great vintage. Picking decisions were based on ripeness, but even more importantly, on ideal flavor development in the grapes — the cornerstone process of crafting a great wine. Fermentation temperatures were kept deliberately low to retain fresh fruit flavors and color extraction. Carefully selected French oak barrels rounded out the élevage (or barrel aging) process, ensuring a wine rich character and complexity.

### VINEYARD NOTES

We source Cabernet Sauvignon for this blend from St. Helena, Oakville, Diamond Mountain and Pope Valley, areas for our Artistry blend for their ability to offer rich and supple fruit flavors with well-integrated tannins. Merlot from Yountville and Rutherford lend lush fruit components while our primary sources for Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot from Pope Valley allow for longer hang time. Our Petite Verdot tends to be our last fruit brought in, allowing for complex character and tannin development while the Yountville Malbec adds mid-palate weight and juiciness. The artful blend of grapes come from both hillside and valley floor vineyards, providing rich texture, balance and integrated tannins. Every year, this blend is perfected to showcase the very best of each year's harvest.

### TASTING NOTES

Our 2015 Artistry blend showcases sweet blackberry and cassis aromas mingling with savory hints of cigar box and dried herbs. On the palate this wine is endowed with blueberry and brioche flavors, vanilla cream and nutmeg flavors which lead into a lengthy finish gilded with integrated scents of oak and spice.

### ABOUT THIS WINE

For over four decades Girard has produced a “red wine” blend from our best barrel lots. In 2003 we found a fitting name for this blend that promotes the artistic side of winemaking. It is in the blending process that we feel “Artistry” finds its best representation.

**VARIETAL COMPOSITION** 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 8% Malbec, 6% Petit Verdot

**GROWING REGION** Napa Valley | **TIME IN OAK** 20 months in French oak, 35% New

**ALCOHOL** 14.9% | **pH** 3.61 | **TA** .6g/100ml | **PRODUCTION** 8,000 6-pk cases