

"Merlot and Syrah both excelled in 2010 at Lee Hudson's vineyard in the southwestern-most part of Napa Valley. While the cool season posed challenges at many locales in the Valley, we were both surprised and delighted by the quality of the fruit that produced the Arietta Variation One. The coolness of the vintage is reflected in the fresh, aromatic quality of this wine, and the combination of Syrah and Merlot delivers a powerful, dark, complex wine. With a light decanting, the tannins take on a cocoa powder character, flowing smoothly across the palate, and aromas and flavors of blueberry pie, vanilla bean, wet gravel, and toasty oak jump from the glass. Tasting is believing with this unique blend of 67% Syrah and 33% Merlot. It is a true terroir-driven wine, and uniquely expressive. Its density and acid backbone will allow it to age for 15 to 20 years, easily." – Andy Erickson, Winemaker