



Arietta Red Wine Variation One 2010

Ten years after its creation in the 2000 vintage, Arietta Red Wine Variation One continues to refresh the mind and the palate with its boldness and distinctive aromas and flavors. Its virtually unique blend of Syrah and Merlot, all grown on the Hudson Ranch in Carneros, marries two very different varietals with the aim of capturing the best of both. The “civil” nature of the Merlot tames the natural “wildness” of the Syrah by rounding its edges, cushioning and broadening the middle palate, and lengthening the finish.

The 2010 Arietta Variation One stands out from its immediate predecessors in two respects: the Syrah rises from half to two-thirds of the blend, while the percentage of new oak drops from 80% to 41%. The result is a more transparent and approachable wine, with forward aromas of dried wild berries, pomegranate, candied orange peel, and hints of spice cake and campfire. The style of the Variation 2010 is reminiscent of the best traditional wines of the Northern Rhone, with food friendly acidity and the gorgeous ripe flavors of a fruit market in September. Without a doubt Arietta Variation One is the most dramatic wine in the Arietta portfolio. It is a perfect foil to lamb, game, grilled and fatty meats in general, and, dare we say it, bacon?

Blend: 67% Syrah, 33% Merlot
Fruit Sources: 100% Hudson Vineyards, Carneros
Cooperage: 41% new French oak
Production: 350 cases
Release date: 3/3/2013

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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 reected 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, owing 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**