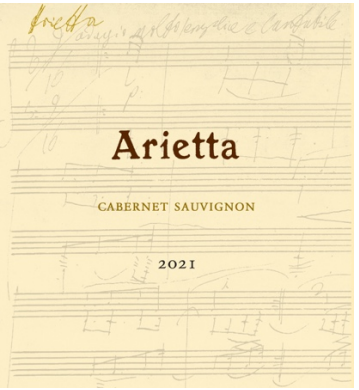

Arietta Cabernet Sauvignon 2021

Notes by Arietta Winemaker Andy Erickson:

Arriving amid a prolonged California drought, the 2021 growing season in the Napa Valley certainly put the vines to the test. Our Cabernet Sauvignon vines are deeply rooted, meaning they were able to tap into reserves that helped get them across the finish line at full stride. Yields were lighter than normal, which made for wines of strength, depth, and balance. It is in these drier years when Napa Valley can deliver wines of great concentration, and in early vintages (which this was) many times there is an added level of acidity and brightness in the wines. And so it is with the Arietta wines from 2021, most notably the Cabernet Sauvignon.

Always produced from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes from the cooler southern end of Napa Valley, the Arietta wines are typically very expressive and varietally on point. Given the strong character of the 2021 vintage, this is especially true. The wines are at once dark and bright: there is a remarkable black-purple hue to the wine, and yet also a lively, complex perfume. Notes of black fruits, sandalwood, dark chocolate and thyme give the wine a multi-dimensional tone. On the palate, the wine is dense but accessible. Tannins are firm but not overly astringent. Nineteen months of age in two-thirds new French oak barrels has helped to give the wine polish, while preserving the structure and aromatic purity. With a light decanting, it is absolutely enjoyable now, and will benefit from cellaring as well.

Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Fruit Sources: Meteor Vineyard and Two Belles Farms, Coombsville
Vine Age: 22 years and 8 years respectively
Elevage: 19 months in French Oak Barrels, 75% new
Production: 291 cases