



RED MARE WINES

2012 . Alpha Mare Red . Napa Valley

Our 2012 Alpha Mare Red is rich and dense with generous blue fruit, cassis, and huckleberry sit at the front. A full profile of spices, caramel, and leather lay beneath the fruit with graphite and bay rounding out a complex nose. The mouthfeel of this wine is dense with firm, mature tannins. The arch of the tannins is graceful and lingers long in the mouth. There is a fresh acidity that will keep this wine improving during aging for many many years to come.

2012 Vintage Notes:

After three cool years, the warmer 2012 vintage was extremely welcome. The Wine Spectator described it as "An ideal season," and they were exactly right. There were no emergencies in 2012, no frost, no unexpected or unwanted rainfall, and no out of the ordinary heat events. It was undoubtedly the most gently paced, easy-going season in years. It was the kind of vintage that justifies Napa Valley's reputation as the home of great wines in America. 2012 felt as though we were finally back to normal. After the unusual years preceding it, everyone was exceedingly happy.

Vineyard & Winemaking Notes:

Alpha Mare is the leader of the herd. This wine is Anne's carte blanche and represents the best of her craft and experience in winemaking. The Cabernet Sauvignon base for our Alpha Mare Red hails from the Blossom Creek Vineyard in the Calistoga Appellation. With a sloping aspect providing consistent airflow and a slight northern exposure, this site is protected from extreme heat and produces exceptional quality grapes.

Barrel fermentation in small 225L oak barrels results in slower, cooler fermentation. The shape and size of the barrel produces a submerged cap. Gentle and consistent, this method of extraction gives mouth-filling, lush, and broad tannic structure. The use of native yeast adds to the complexity, and a co-fermentation of Cabernet Sauvignon with Petit Verdot, and Petite Syrah creates a round, vibrant, and pleasing wine with intense color and depth.

Production: 97 cases

TA: 6.9 g/L

pH: 3.80

Alc: 14.9%

100% French Oak

85% New Oak

80% Barrel Fermented

Vineyard or Appellation Breakdown:

85% Blossom Creek ~ Calistoga ~ Cabernet Sauvignon

11% Swickard Vineyard ~ Calistoga ~ Petite Sirah

4% Bennet Lane ~ Calistoga ~ Petit Verdot