



## Arietta Red Wine Quartet 2016

Arietta Quartet is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot from carefully chosen vineyard blocks in the Napa Valley. Aged for 20 months in French oak barrels (61% new), Arietta Quartet is approachable upon release, but rich enough to age well for ten years or more. The label features a drawing of the instruments of the string quartet by eight year old Libby Hatton, a future proprietor of Arietta, over a manuscript fragment of the famous Cavatina movement from Beethoven's String Quartet Opus 130.

The Arietta Red Wine Quartet 2016 benefits from two new vineyard sources at the southern end of Napa Valley, both providing Cabernet Sauvignon, and both managed by the superb viticulturist, Mike Wolf. This change makes more attainable our continuing quest for the most exquisite balance of ripeness and freshness in the Arietta wines.

Arietta winemaker Andy Erickson notes: *"The 2016 Quartet is the result of a stellar vintage in the Napa Valley. The long, mild growing season produced wines of great depth, intensity, and balance. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot is as satisfying and complex as the ratios suggest. The dark red-purple color calls to mind fruit and spice notes in the same color spectrum. And indeed the wine delivers, with mouthwatering aromas and flavors of freshly picked blueberries and raspberries, as well as measured oak tones and hints of pot de crème and freshly turned soil. This young wine continues to open in the glass, with the red-blue fruit notes giving way to riper black fruits, graphite, fresh-cut hay, and smoked meat. The palate sensation is cool but intense, with the multifaceted perfume lingering on the finish. The 2016 Quartet will continue to gain in complexity, and will easily age for a decade or more."*

**Blend:** 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

**Fruit Sources:** 42% Coombsville, 38% Carneros, 18% Calistoga

**Elevage:** 22 months in French oak barrels, 61% new

**Production:** 1,461 cases