



IPO WINES

COUNTRY
USA

REGION
California

APPELLATION
Napa County

SOIL TYPE
Basalt Rock, Volcanic Ash

VARIETAL(S)
100% Cabernet Sauvignon

FARMING
Sustainable

WINEMAKER
Martha McClellan



2019 Checkerboard "Aurora Vineyard" Napa Valley

IMPORTED BY IPO Wines

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Checkerboard Vineyards is a hillside estate nestled in the mountains on the west side of Napa Valley. Their vineyards produce extraordinary wines rooted in a profound feeling for the land that bears vines and yields rich fruit. They have taken meticulous care to farm and groom their meadows and woodlands to preserve native growth, protect wildlife and nurture a unique mix of rootstock and classic Bordeaux clones. Devotion to the site and a near perfect combination of climate, exposures and altitudes has allowed us to fulfill our dream of a classic Napa Valley wine coaxed from stony soils. We are proud to introduce Checkerboard wines: an elegant expression of place and our passionate commitment to the craft of winemaking.

Farming practices at Checkerboard Vineyards are based on long-term sustainability and includes water conservation and monitoring, permanent cover crops planted in alternating rows to reduce erosion and sediment runoff, protection of our habitat along Nash Creek, and the use of entomology for pest control and to create soils with more organic matter and better microbiology. Checkerboard Vineyards is a member of the Fish Friendly Farming certification program to follow environmentally-friendly land practices and better manage water quality.

WINE NOTES

"Aurora Vineyard is nestled in a small valley midway up Diamond Mountain on a large knoll located at an elevation of 1,200 feet. The knoll projects off the mountainside, giving the vineyard full Southern exposure and open light from the East and West and protection from Napa Valley's summer fog. Six acres of the vineyard are planted in the knoll's rich, volcanic soils that are riddled with basalt cobble in a loamy red clay. The remaining six acres are planted in a deep gravely mix of white volcanic ash and chips of decomposed Rhyolite that were washed down from the steep, rocky crags of Diamond Mountain above.

The 2019 vintage of Aurora Vineyard is a wine of finesse and elegance and is characterized by its broad palate that begins at entry and follows through to a stunning and lengthy finish. To create this seamless wine, the vineyard was harvested several times over a two week period. The fruit was manually selected berry-by-berry and then fermented in both stainless tank and wood barrels, creating numerous wine lots with subtle but distinct nuances. The 2019 vintage offers classic Aurora aromas and flavors of wild blackberry, cassis, candied cherry and vanilla, cinnamon, and clove. A stunner."