

ZIATA

2016 MIA MADRE, RED WINE, NAPA VALLEY

The Vineyards:

Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford AVA

In 2016 we were pleased to find the perfect source for the base of our red wine blend. Andy Beckstoffer is world renowned for his commitment to growing the highest-quality grapes, and we are fortunate to have established a long-term partnership for Mia Madre.

Georges III is located on the Rutherford Bench and encompasses the historic Beaulieu Vineyard No. 3, the source for some of B.V.'s most prestigious bottlings, including those by Andre Tchelistcheff. The site's warm, sunny days provide excellent hang time and these Cabernet vines are typically among the first to flower and the last to be harvested, giving wines extra concentration and richness. About a third of the vineyard is planted to clone 337, which we selected for its dense, complex flavors and highly aromatic, floral character.

Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Franc, Atlas Peak AVA

I've always been drawn to the Vaca mountains on the eastern side of the valley when looking for Cabernet Franc. We source our Cabernet Franc from Stagecoach Vineyard's Block K5, which is planted to clone 332 and is located in the Pritchard Hill region of the vineyard.

Stagecoach Vineyard's red, volcanic soils, rugged terrain and sun exposure result in classic "mountain fruit," with big tannins and complex flavors. What makes Block K5 unique is its position at the mouth of Foss Valley, overlooking Napa Valley with a southerly view to the San Francisco Bay. While it is a warm area, it has moderate midday temperatures, thanks to a steady breeze coming up the valley. The resulting fruit from this block is ripe, bold and extremely concentrated.

Farella-Park Vineyard Malbec, Coombsville AVA

We discovered this site in 2012 when friends Frank and Tom Farella mentioned they had a small amount of Malbec for sale. We fell in love with the site, and it has been part of our portfolio ever since.

Tucked against the southern Vaca Mountain range, the Farella-Park vineyard enjoys a moderate climate with fog-dominated mornings and long, sun-drenched afternoons. Its soils are layers of volcanic tufa, decomposed rock and ashy deposits from ancient landslides—geologic episodes that literally turned this vineyard on its head. The fruit from this block adds bright, juicy, blue fruit flavors and aromas and a good tannin structure.

The 2016 Growing Season:

The 2016 vintage was one of Napa Valley's best. The long growing season was temperate and even, with just the right amount of sunshine and heat to set up an ideal harvest where we were able to harvest each site at optimal conditions for mature tannins and perfectly ripe fruit flavors.

The Winemaking:

Winemaker Jennifer Williams has been with Ziata since January 2015. After interning for a harvest at Araujo Estate and Spottswoode Estate, she joined Spottswoode full time and worked under the tutelage of vineyard manager David Abreu before becoming the winery's vineyard manager for two years, and then winemaker for six years, before launching her consulting business in 2011.

Fermentation: A combination of stainless-steel tank and French oak barrels
Aging: 24 months 75% new French oak, 25% neutral French oak
Blend: 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 9% Malbec
Alcohol: 15.0%
Production: 486 cases