



2016 Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre, David Girard Vineyard El Dorado

Founded in 1991 by Michael Dragutsky, Cornerstone Cellars is the quintessential Napa Valley mountain and benchland producer of Cabernet Sauvignon. Our winemaking led by Kari Auringer honors Napa Valley's great heritage by crafting intense, elegant and balanced wines that stand among the very best winegrowing estates in the world. Through intellectual rigor, humility, and with the utmost respect for the land, Cornerstone Cellars aims to make wines that truly speak to its exceptional vineyard sites in the most authentic and genuine way possible.



El Dorado AVA & David Girard Vineyard

El Dorado, a sub-appellation of the expansive Sierra Foothills AVA, is defined by an elevation of 1,200 to 3,500 feet. Cooled by elevation, not fog, these are ideal growing conditions for Rhône-style varieties including Mourvèdre, Syrah and Grenache. David Girard Vineyard is located at 1,330 feet elevation and has 40 acres of hillside vineyards planted to several Rhone varieties including Mourvèdre, Grenache, Marsanne, Roussanne and Viognier.

Vintage Notes

The winter months finally brought Northern California substantial, nourishing rains after four long years of drought, giving stressed vineyards and winemakers some relief. An early, warm spring triggered an early budbreak, with veraison also starting early in most Napa vineyards. Long sunny days without any major heat spikes allowed us to hang the fruit on the vines a little longer, achieving ideal ripeness without intervention from Mother Nature.

Tasting Notes

The Grenache and the Syrah were the first grapes to ripen and were both harvested on September 14. This gave us the opportunity to ferment them together. The Mourvèdre needed a little more time on the vine and we harvested that on the 27th of September. Both lots fermented at low temperatures, which enhances the bright red fruit aromas. As the wine opens up in your glass, you might notice the lively aromatics of cherry lifesavers, chocolate, and black fruit. On the palate you'll find a juicy fruit-focused core of blackberry and boysenberry intertwined with earthy baking spices and black licorice. On the finish, this wine elegantly evolves into a complex assortment of spice, toasty vanilla and Bing cherry.

2016 Winemaking Notes

Vintage:	2016
Appellation:	El Dorado
Vineyard:	David Girard Vineyard
Farming:	Certified Organic
Variegals:	40% Mourvèdre 33% Grenache 27% Syrah
Alcohol:	14.1%
Cooperage:	20% New French oak Barrels, 80% neutral oak
Production:	260 Cases
Retail:	\$30