



2017 CHECKERBOARD NASH CREEK VINEYARD

MARTHA MCCLELLAN, WINEMAKER

“At 2,000 feet in elevation and at the top of the Estate is Nash Creek Vineyard. The blocks rest just below the East ridge of Diamond Mountain on a steeply sloping terrace composed entirely of Rhyolite. At this elevation, winter temperatures are colder and extend into early Spring, and bud break takes place up to six weeks later than our vineyards below. By early Summer, Nash Creek Vineyard catches up and surpasses the growth of the Aurora and Coyote Ridge Vineyards. This due to the lingering daytime heat absorbed by its rocky base and the nighttime convective warmth rising from the Napa Valley below, providing nearly round-the-clock grape maturation.

The 2017 growing year seemed to emphasize the character of Nash Creek Vineyard, resulting in a wine with deep color, dark aromas, and firm but approachable tannins. The nose and palate are dominated by black fruits, dried plums, roasted espresso, baking spice, and licorice. Despite this intensity, the wine is balanced by its own energy and minerality, making it a very compelling glass of wine.

In its youth, the wine benefits from decanting prior to serving.”