



2014 CHECKERBOARD AURORA VINEYARD

MARTHA MCCLELLAN, WINEMAKER

“Aurora Vineyard rests on a knoll in a small valley midway up Diamond Mountain at 1,200 feet in elevation. Suggestive of its storied past, the soils are riddled with basalt rock and volcanic ash.

2014 Checkerboard Aurora Vineyard offers beautiful aromas of wild brambleberry, rich caramel and fresh, dark cherries macerated in Asian spices. On the palate, this elegant wine is seamlessly interwoven with cassis, cured meat, and crushed, dried herbs. Structured, yet approachable tannins provide a full mid-palate and the underpinning for a lengthy and lovely finish. In its youth, the 2014 vintage benefits from decanting prior to service.”



2014 CHECKERBOARD COYOTE RIDGE VINEYARD

MARtha McCLELLAN, WINEMAKER

“Coyote Ridge Vineyard is sited at 900 feet in elevation and composed of red clay and shattered basalt rock. The vineyard’s name comes from a fondness for a family of coyotes who protect the vines from burrowing pests.

2014 Checkerboard Coyote Ridge offers a kaleidoscope of aromas that include abundant red fruit, tobacco leaf, caramel and pink tellicherry peppercorn. It’s inherent floral nature is derived from its place and nuanced with bay leaf and fresh pencil shavings. Full bodied and luxurious, this superb illustration of Coyote Ridge demonstrates the vineyard’s continuing maturity and evolution. The 2014 vintage benefits from decanting prior to service.”



2014 CHECKERBOARD NASH CREEK VINEYARD

MARTHA MCCLELLAN, WINEMAKER

“At 2,000 feet in elevation and at the top of the estate is Nash Creek Vineyard, resting just below the ridge on a sloping terrace composed entirely of rhyolite. At this elevation, winter temperatures are colder and extend into early spring, and bud break may take place up to six weeks later than our vineyards below. But, by early summer, Nash Creek Vineyard catches up and surpasses the growth of Aurora and Coyote Ridge vineyards. The lingering daytime heat absorbed by its rocks and the nighttime convective warmth rising from the Napa Valley below provide near round-the-clock grape maturation.

The 2014 Checkerboard Nash Creek is deep and intense, offering aromas of blackberry bush, exotic spices, toasted chocolate and roast espresso. The palate is full bodied and layered with marionberry, boysenberry and plum. Fans of Nash Creek will be rewarded with this classically structured expression offering an opulent finish of pure fruit and minerality that ensures extended cellaring. In its youth, the wine benefits greatly from decanting prior to service.