



2018 CHECKERBOARD

KINGS ROW

MARTHA MCCLELLAN, WINEMAKER

2018 Kings Row is an expression of the Aurora Vineyard, located in a small valley midway up Diamond Mountain on a large knoll at an elevation of 1,200 feet. The knoll projects off the mountainside, giving the vineyard full southern exposure, 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 gravelly mix of white volcanic ash and chips of decomposed Rhyolite washed down from the steep, rocky crags of Diamond Mountain above.

2018 Checkerboard Kings Row exhibits all the markers of a classic Cabernet. The nose is fresh and laced with cherry, black currant, and red spice that combine in a dazzling array of flavors on the palate to include wild blueberries, crispy sage, white flowers, baking spice, and paprika. There's a lively, vibrant backbone and plush tannins that extend through to the finish. Bravo, Martha!

In its youth, the 2018 vintage of Checkerboard Kings Row benefits from decanting.