



2019 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 vineyard 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 is 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.

Since its first release in 2012, Nash Creek is our most sought-after wine. The 2019 vintage is hedonistic. It's a kaleidoscope of swirling black, purple, and red aromas and flavors that are showcased by soft floral notes, baking spice, and espresso roast. The tannins are deliciously big and chewy, the hallmark of a Nash Creek wine. It's well-balanced by natural acidity and lifted by the rocky minerality of its site. It's another beautiful vintage from this special place at Checkerboard Vineyards.

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