

For more than three decades, Kenwood Vineyards Artist Series remains the ultimate expression of artistry and fine winemaking by blending the finest Cabernet Sauvignon produced in Sonoma County.

THE ARTIST

Clare E. Rojas (born 1976) tells stories through painting, music, installations and video work. Her narratives used to be based in folk art tableaux that tackled gender stereotypes. Recently she has moved into pure geometric abstractions. She sees them as part of a continuum free of limitations and tied to her interest in color, line, shape and space. The geometric abstractions reference West Coast modernism, Quaker art, Native American textiles, Byzantine mosaics, and Outsider art.

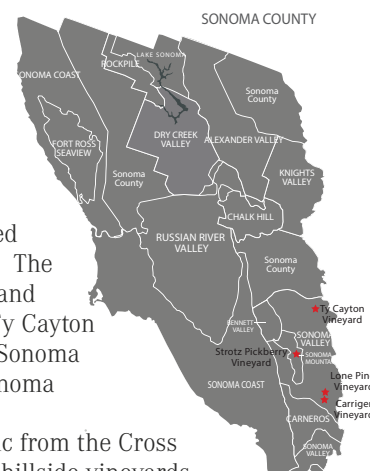
“For me the shift to abstraction was personal. There are a couple of challenges I find in abstraction. One is letting go of the idea that the viewer is supposed to perceive my work one way. There is no right or wrong way to look at the work.”

Based in San Francisco, CA Clare takes inspiration for her art from her surroundings. For the Untitled piece featured on the 2013 label, Clare was moved to capture the reflection of light and shadow of a landscape over the course of a day, capturing time in moments.

THE VINEYARDS

Since its first vintage in 1975, Kenwood Vineyards Artist Series has represented the “best of the best” of our Cabernet Sauvignon. Each year select vineyards located throughout Sonoma County’s premier Cabernet appellations are picked at the peak of flavor and then carefully crushed, fermented, and aged. After two years of barrel aging the winemakers taste through all of the individual vineyard lots and select barrel by barrel the most flavorful wines to make up the Artist Series blend. Chief Winemaker Pat Henderson selected Cabernet Sauvignon lots sourced predominantly from hillside vineyards located in the Sonoma Valley AVA. The majority of the blend was made from our Carriger Estate Vineyard (57%) and Lone Pine Estate Vineyard (10%). Blended with these were lots from the Ty Cayton Vineyard (23%) located in the Mayacamas Mountains on the East Side of Sonoma Valley and the Strotz-Pickberry Vineyard (7%) located on the slopes of Sonoma Mountain.

To add complexity and balance 1.5 % Petit Verdot and 1.5 % Cabernet Franc from the Cross Springs Ranch were added. All of these ranches except for Lone Pine are hillside vineyards. Although they are much more difficult to farm and produce lower yields, grapes grown on hillside vineyards have intense character and flavor that make them ideal for the Artist Series blend.



THE HARVEST

2013 was the driest growing season of California’s historic 4-year drought with less than 9” of rain for the entire year. While the weather was quite dry it was also very mild with just two days of 100-degree weather in late June. The extremely dry conditions made for very small berries with a high skin to juice ratio concentrating the fruit. This combined with warm, but not hot, days and cool nights allowed the vines to slowly ripen the grapes to full flavor over the course of the entire summer.

TASTE PROFILE

Enticing aromas of coco nibs, red currant and wild raspberry lead to flavors of cherry and blackberry on the palette. The wine is well-balanced with moderate acidity that will provide for many years of aging.

WINEMAKING DETAILS

Composition: 97% Cabernet Sauvignon
3% Petit Verdot & Cabernet Franc
Appellation: Sonoma County
Harvest method: handpicked
Acidity/pH: 3.5 / 6.6
Alcohol: 14.5%
Bottling Date: 5/25/2016
Cases produced: 2,059

Cooperage:
French: Nadalie, Taransaud, Demptos
Berthomieu Magreñán, Marcel Cadet,
American: Nadalie, Demptos
Oak regimen:
24 months in 25% new oak
80% French and 20% American barrels.

CELLARING POTENTIAL

The 2013 Artist Series is rich, with full-bodied tannins and plenty of intense fruity characteristics, allowing for 7-10 years of aging