

{ E X P E R I M E N T }

N<sup>o</sup>. **R9.8**

**experiment:** *n.* 1) a scientific procedure undertaken to make a discovery, test a hypothesis, or demonstrate a known fact; 2) a course of action tentatively adopted without being sure of the outcome; 3) a series of wines from *Ovid Napa Valley* celebrating experimentation in grape growing and winemaking.

AT OVID Napa Valley, experimentation in grape growing and wine-making reflects our ethos – to learn more about the land and what will make the very best wine. We conduct formal experiments on specific topics and participate in a variety of academic and applied studies. And we sometimes try things several ways just to indulge our curiosity and to challenge what we know to be possible in the vineyard and the winery.

Our Experiment wines are a product of this process. Each vintage, we offer small amounts of different wines that we believe will be of special interest to you, allowing you to taste and experience new aspects of our vineyard and winemaking.

## 2018 RED EXPERIMENT R9.8

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“Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher.”

—William Wordsworth

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Planting a vineyard is truly the greatest experiment. It's the framework for vintages to come, and there are many choices to be made – often with limited knowledge. What rootstocks to choose? Which clones? How to prepare the soil? How should one trellis and orient the block? The results of these decisions take 20 years to reveal themselves.

With this Experiment, we were interested in more fully exploring row orientation. This single choice affects how and when light is intercepted by the fruit, how the heat of the afternoon impacts the fruit ripening and how the fruit accumulates color and flavor. Fascinated with all these meaningful effects, we chose a vineyard with row orientation 90 degrees to ours. We visited in the morning and the afternoon, curious to compare and contrast, full of questions for the grower and excited to see what the wine would tell us.

The 2018 Red Experiment R9.8 is an undeniably delicious result of this curious question. Notes of fresh blackberry, plum and black cherry burst forth, aligning with more subtle hints of pencil lead, forest floor, cedar and dark chocolate. Saturating and harmonious, this wine should grace the palate for years to come.

AUSTIN PETERSON *Winemaker*

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