

# NICOLETTE CHRISTOPHER

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PURE NAPA

## GRACIE THE BORDER COLLIE GRAPE HERDER

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Gracie is our lovable Border Collie and Chief Grape herder. While her pop is a real life sheep herder in Sonoma County, Gracie “herds grapes” here in Napa Valley. Gracie has been Nicki’s constant companion since June 2012 and has romped her way through some of the finest vineyards in Napa Valley. It’s fun to watch Gracie sniff out the ripe clusters on a grape vine and ignore unripe clusters. It doesn’t matter if its Sauvignon blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot she does the same thing. I observed this behavior during her first harvest season as a wee pup and she has never grown out of it. While Chris and I are out walking the vineyard rows tasting grapes, Gracie will run ahead and bump the ripe clusters with her nose. If you taste the berries from those clusters they are ripe while berries from clusters she ignores aren’t quite ready! It’s kind of fun to have our own furry, mobile “GC-Mass Spec” while we are out in the vineyards as a cross-check to our own eyes and palate.

Gracie loves car rides, long walks, vineyards, playing with her puppy-pals at the winery and her favorite vineyard manager who hails from the Carneros.

Gracie’s Caveat: DO NOT FEED GRAPES or RAISINS TO YOUR DOG because they are a potential health threat. Grapes can be toxic to dogs leading to kidney failure so eat a proper dog treat instead of grapes!

