Karen Cakebread releases 2012 Ziata "Mia Madre" for Mother's Day

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CALISTOGA -- Vintner Karen Cakebread introduces her most inspired wine to date, the 2012 Ziata "Mia Madre" Red Blend. It is a small-lot wine crafted from four prized vineyards in Napa Valley: Saunders in Oakville, Shafer in Stags Leap, Viña Esperanza in Calistoga and Farella-Park in Coombsville.

"From the beginning, I wanted to make a flagship wine that was special enough to call 'Mia Madre' — a wine that pays tribute to, not only my mother, but strong, caring women everywhere who guide and inspire. The stellar 2012 vintage gave me access to beautiful fruit from four of my favorite growers. From the start, there was no question, this wine was going to be deserving of the name 'Mia Madre.'"

Cakebread is the sole employee of Ziata Wines, involved in every aspect of the winemaking process, from monitoring fruit on the vine to delivering finished cases to Napa Valley restaurants. Her pluck and perseverance were instilled by her mother, Mary Annunziata, who moved away from home after high school to join the WWII effort as a "Rosie the Riveter" arc welder.

"My mother was strong and courageous," Cakebread explained. "She loved working in a non-traditional role, and always encouraged me to be my own woman and pursue what I love."

Cakebread worked with consulting winemaker Anne Vawter, a protégé of Heidi Barrett, to create this new addition to her small portfolio released in time for Mother's Day.

"I hope 'Mia Madre' gives friends and family a reason to gather around the table, toast a loved one, share old memories and make new ones," she said.

More than 20 years of representing the Napa Valley and its wines around the world gave Cakebread the desire and know-how to develop her own wine brand, which she named in honor of her mother, Annunziata, and officially launched in March 2008.

"I had two goals," she said: "to create beautifully structured wines that reflect the vineyards they come from and to be involved in every aspect making wine."