

Robert Foley

VINEYARDS



2020 PETITE SIRAH

Blackberry pie on the face! This massive pitch-black Petite Sirah coats the entire palate with gripping tannin and delicious berry flavors and yet it finishes with a balance of extract and acidity that beckons another sip...

I insisted this Petite Sirah block be harvested on September 26, 2020; it was only a few tons and I had another small Cabernet pick to do on the same day. This was very fortunate for us, because the following day, the Glass Fire broke out – we are so happy to have this excellent vintage!

For lovers of big, extracted red wines, packed with flavor and fine tannins, this is the variety for you! Not to be confused with Syrah... Petite Sirah was originally discovered in 1877 by a French botanist Francois Durif, working at the Montpellier Viticultural Institute in southern France. He found this seedling growing in a Peloursin vineyard and discovered that it had good resistance to downy mildew and named it for himself, Durif. Unfortunately, the tight clusters were prone to bunch rot and the wines that were produced were considered too big and tannic for the French palate and the variety was eradicated in France. It did make its way to California and other parts of the world where it is known as Petite Sirah. There is nothing "petite" about it – even the berries are very large and the wines can be enormous. The key to user friendliness is patience to allow the seeds to ripen, allowing the tannins to relax. Through genetics, it was determined that this variety was the result of pollination of a Peloursin flower with Syrah pollen. Good news: very recently, a French vigneron has re-introduced Petite Sirah to France!

SPECIFICATIONS

Wine: 2020 Petite Sirah
Appellation: Napa Valley
Vineyard: Calistoga AVA
Harvest: Hand-picked September 26, 2020
Vinification: Fermented in stainless; aged in neutral French Oak
Alcohol: 15.5%
Bottled: May 2022
Production: 120 cases
Winemaker: Bob Foley