

PINE RIDGE

VINEYARDS

2021 PETIT VERDOT

DEEP AND FULL-BODIED, PETIT VERDOT IS A BIG WINE WITH A LITTLE NAME! KNOWN FOR ADDING COLOR AND STRUCTURE TO BORDEAUX BLENDS, IT IS NOT OFTEN FOUND AS A SINGLE VARIETY BOTTLING.

VINTAGE

The 2021 growing season was a prime example of why Napa Valley is such a great place to grow grapes. The winter heading into the 2021 growing season was colder than average with a drier than average spring. There were four total heat events over the growing season with the May and September heat events being outside the typical range for that time of year. The rainfall for the year was below average for the fourth straight year, presenting a challenge for the grower due to irrigation ponds and wells being at levels that have not been seen since 2017. The colder spring and lack of rain caused bud break to occur two weeks later than in 2020 but brought it closer to the 5-year average. The summer growing conditions were exceptionally good, making for ideal berry development. Both bloom and veraison, which typically last two to three weeks each, were each over in about a week! The start of harvest was early due to September being very warm. This was good, because in October California experienced a series of atmospheric rivers that dumped 9.5" of rain that month. The yields for the year were below average, but from a quality standpoint, it was a vintage year!

VITICULTURE & WINEMAKING

Harvested between October 4th and October 19th, the grapes were hand-harvested at night when temperatures often dip to 50°F to capture vibrant acidity and fruit expression in the wine. We first cold-soaked the must (crushed grapes) for gentle extraction and then fermented in stainless steel, concrete, and oak barrel fermenters at 92°F. Rigorous pump-overs, increasing during the peak of the fermentation, developed deep color, rich varietal character and fine tannins in the wine. The wine was aged in 40% new French oak barrels to meld the bright fruit expression with oak spice nuances. After three months of aging, we blended the vineyard components and allow them to marry for a total of 20 months of barrel élevage. This wine was bottled unfinned and unfiltered to present the attributes of the vineyard in the purest form possible, from the dirt to the glass!

ANALYSIS

VARIETALS	ALCOHOL	pH	TA
75% Petit Verdot	15.5%	3.90	5.4 g/l
19% Cabernet Sauvignon			
2% Petite Sirah, 2% Merlot, 2% Malbec			



TASTING NOTES

Black and deep upon first inspection, notes of black licorice, açai, clove and tar intermingle to support the wine's intense visuals. Working to not come off as "monolithic" the black fruit profile transitions to blueberry juice and blackberry extract with a midpalate that is forceful with chewy tannins. These support the impactful front end and transition to a back end redolent with olallieberries and caramel. A proper Santa Maria style barbeque (with tri-tip, piquito beans, salsa, salad and garlic bread) would be perfectly accompanied by this powerful wine. Enjoy now through 2036.

