

SANTA BARBARA WINERY

2006 PETITE SIRAH

We are happy to release our second vintage of Petite Sirah. This grape has had a rather muddled history ever since it was first cultivated in California circa 1890 shortly after being either propagated or identified as a separate variety in France in the 1880's. It is not Syrah, and there is nothing "petite" about it in terms of grape size or flavor. Many older Petite Sirah vineyards in California are actually "field blends" containing as many as five grape varieties (including Petite Sirah and Syrah). DNA fingerprinting has also shown what we know as Petite Sirah could actually be the ancient Rhone variety Peloursin. Or, as the most popular theory goes, this grape is actually Durif, a cross of Peloursin and Syrah created in France in the 1880's.



Whatever the reason, the name "Petite Sirah" has stuck and the wine became an early favorite in California as the rich, massive wines it produces were a natural favorite when paired with old rancho cuisine featuring grilled meats and vegetables. The big flavors, black pepper spice and rustic tannins are also a terrific match with hearty stews.

Winemaker Bruce McGuire blended the adjoining Thompson Vineyard and Tres Burro Vineyard in Alisos Canyon, a site he feels is well suited for grapes to make big, rich wines. Bruce notes, "2006 produced a crop of very small clusters that yielded a very dense wine." Petite Sirah is not known for aging ability and we suggest enjoying this wine before 2011 with late 2009 being ideal.

HARVEST

Date: October 28, 2006
November 1, 2006

Vineyard: 42% Thompson Vineyard
58% Tres Burro Vnyd.

Sugar: 25.7 to 27.3^o Brix
Production: 283 cases
Sugg. Retail Price: \$28.00

WINE

Barrels: Twelve French and Hungarian barrels, 25% new oak.

Total Acid: .69
pH: 3.35
Alcohol: 15.5%
Date Bottled: March 28, 2008
Residual Sugar: Dry

