PETITE SIRAH
Salman Vineyards - Clarksburg

Petite Sirah is a grape variety that is the result of Syrah pollen germinating another Rhone variety; Peloursin. The new variety was discovered by a French botanist François Durif in the 1860s and it was introduced to California in 1884. In California, the variety became known as Petite Sirah due to its similarities to Syrah but distinguished from its Father by its smaller berries. Although Durif/Petite Sirah hails from France there is very little planted there. Worldwide, the majority of Petite Sirah is grown in the United States and Australia.

I discovered Clarksburg Petite Sirah in the early 1990s while I was the winemaker for the J. Lohr Winery in San Jose. I coveted the wines produced from Petite Sirah for their value as a blending wine; adding color and depth to cuvees in which they were included. The wines from the Clarksburg appellation were especially appealing because they offered the depth, strength and color for which Petite Sirah is renown, but they did not carry with them the intense astringent tannins for which this variety is notorious. We first offered a varietal Petite Sirah from the 2000 vintage and over the last decade we have watched as Petite Sirah has evolved into our best selling varietal wine.

The 2012 vintage has a deep purple color with bright garnet hues. The aromas feature ripe concentrated dark fruits; cassis, boysenberry and black raspberry. Aged in 100% new French Oak, the bouquet provides a smoky oak scent that has nuances of patent malt and dark chocolate. On the palate, round rich flavors of dense concentrated black fruits meld with those of mocha and deeply toasted oak. The ripe grapes that 2012 vintage provided has translated into a wine with a richness that coats the mouth with a luscious creamy texture. We have gone to great lengths to keep the tannins in check and the result is a full satisfying finish.

Varietal Composition: 100% Petite Sirah 14.4% Alc. 0.73 g/100ml TA 3.34 pH

Oak Regime: 100% French Oak

Released: January 1, 2014 2,000 Cases Produced

Retail Price: $28 Wine Club Price $23.80