



2013 Petit Verdot

Damir Ranch, Stanislaus County

In 1995 I had the pleasure of visiting Bordeaux. My most vivid memory of that trip was that while the rain poured down just weeks before the harvest not a single vintner was concerned. I was truly impressed with everyone's calm demeanor. The second thing I remember about that trip was that everyone we spoke with waxed poetic about the virtues of Petit Verdot. When queried why they didn't grow more of it, I learned that it ripens after Cabernet Sauvignon and since Cabernet Sauvignon often has to struggle to ripen in Bordeaux it was only in exceptionally warm years that Petit Verdot matured. But the praise for the wines made from Petit Verdot when it did ripen couldn't have been more effusive. To this Californian this sounded like an opportunity. Given our abundant sunshine and tendency to over-ripen grapes, Petit Verdot sounded like a grape with plenty of potential.

Our 2012 vintage of Petit Verdot took a big step towards the fulfillment of that potential. Here at Jeff Runquist Wines we don't submit our wines to critics or publications for review. Instead we look to the unbiased nature of wine competitions for third party endorsements. Last year the 2012 Petit Verdot was judged at ten competitions. It won one best of show honor, two best of class awards, two double gold medals, four gold medals and a bronze medal. This is the first time one of our wines has scored in every competition in which it was entered. We think that Petit Verdot is coming of age and the wine from the Damir Ranch is gaining recognition as one of the leaders in this blossoming category.

The 2013 Petit Verdot has a very deep dark purple/black color that comes close to that of Petite Sirah. The hues are youthful and bright and show just the beginning of a carmine edge. Aromatically this wine is loaded with ripe dense concentrated black berry, marionberry, black currant and cassis. The bouquet has a deeply toasted almost roasted oak character with notes of dark chocolate and smoke. On the pallet flavors of black fruits are presented by a big rich round viscous wine with a creamy silky texture. The tannins are mature and well integrated providing richness without astringency. The finish is long and full with flavors that linger. This is a very satisfying wine that has the unique combination of the zest and succulence of youth and the grace and elegance of age.

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| Varietal Composition: 100% Petit Verdot | 13.7% Alc. | 0.62 g/100ml TA | 3.56 pH |
| Oak Regime: 26% French Oak | 57% American Oak | 17% Neutral Oak | |
| Released: March 1, 2015 | 1,194 Cases Produced | Suggested Retail Price: \$25 | |