

Along with Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Malbec, Petit Verdot is one of the principal red Bordeaux varieties. It doesn't seem to get much attention or notoriety, and with some research one finds that it rarely contributes more than ten percent of the blends produced in Bordeaux. There is a very simple explanation for this and it has little to do with the quality of the wine produced from Petit Verdot. The simple fact is Petit Verdot is the last of the Bordeaux varieties to ripen. And given the climate in Bordeaux, the full potential of Petit Verdot is often not realized because it doesn't fully mature before the growing season ends. Here in California, the land of abundant sunshine, this is not an issue and the virtues of Petit Verdot are slowly being recognized. Unfortunately, most producers that make Petit Verdot also make Cabernet Sauvignon and can get a better return for their efforts when the Petit Verdot is blended into the Cabernet Sauvignon. And from a winemaking perspective I rarely find a Cabernet Sauvignon that wouldn't benefit from the inclusion of Petite Verdot. This all conspires to limit the offerings of varietal Petit Verdot. We have developed a bit of a reputation for offering varietals that historically have been considered "Blenders", like Carignane and Petite Sirah and so it was only logical given the success of Petit Verdot in the cellar that we offer it as a stand-alone 100% varietal wine.

The 2011 Petit Verdot has a deep, almost inky, purple color. The hues are bright with a carmine edge. Aromatically this wine delivers exactly what I have come to expect from Petit Verdot; black currants with the depth and density of cassis. There are also notes of dust, flint, and blackberry. The bouquet offers hints of mocha and dark chocolate. On the pallet juicy succulent flavors of fully ripened blue and black fruits transition seamlessly to a long finish full of deeply toasted oak flavors that linger. The tannins are soft, mature, and well integrated and contribute to the wine's creamy silky texture.

Varietal Composition: 100% Petit Verdot	14.2% Alc.	0.67 g/100ml TA	3.56 pH
Oak Regime: 48% French Oak		52% American Oak	
Released: March 1, 2013	581 Cases Produced		Suggested Retail Price: \$24