



Jeff Runquist WINES



Varietal Petit Verdot is rare. Despite an impeccable pedigree alongside Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec, Petit Verdot is one of the five major red varieties of Bordeaux and finding a bottle labeled Petit Verdot is still difficult. Consider the listings of the wines available from Bordeaux varieties on wine.com; Cabernet Sauvignon has 1,732 wines listed, Merlot has 248, Malbec 238, Cabernet Franc 112. Petit Verdot has 10, yup that is no typo, a paltry ten wines. A quick and perfectly logical conclusion might be that Petit Verdot makes lousy wine, but that would be mistaken. The French love the grape, they just can't ripen it. Of all the Bordeaux varieties Petit Verdot needs the most sunshine and heat. My explanation for the rarity of varietal Petit Verdot starts with the grower. If a vineyard owner can grow and ripen Petit Verdot, that grower has invariably also planted Cabernet Sauvignon. And in forty years in this business, I have rarely tasted a Cabernet Sauvignon wine that wouldn't have been improved with the addition of some Petit Verdot. And since a vintner will always receive a premium for Cabernet Sauvignon it makes financial sense to add your Petit Verdot to the blend especially if it improves the quality of the wine. So unfortunately for those of us that love to explore the diversity of the wine market, economics and wine quality have teamed up to suppress the offerings of wine produced from this outstanding grape.

The 2018 Petit Verdot has a deep dark purple color with garnet hues with just a hint of carmine. Aromas of triple berry pie filling; blackberry, marionberry and dark cherry are teamed with a bouquet of soft creamy mocha that lift gracefully from the glass. Flavors reminiscent of a buttery black currant pastry are delivered by a wine with a smooth supple texture. The tannins are mature and feed a long finish with flavors of deeply toasted oak lingering well after the wine is gone. This is an elegant red wine that doesn't require any time in the cellar to be savored and enjoyed, and it comes from a grape that deserves more respect than its getting.

Varietal Composition: 100% Petit Verdot

13.8% Alc., 0.64 g/100ml TA, 3.63 pH

Oak Regime: 40% French Oak, 39% American Oak, 21% Neutral Oak

Released: July 1, 2020

943 Cases Produced

Suggested Retail Price: \$26