



BELL

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Petit verdot 2005

Massa Ranch

Yountville

Napa Valley

Vineyard

Our Petit verdot is grown on the Massa Ranch, our neighbor in Yountville. Yountville enjoys the early morning fog and cool growing conditions of the maritime influenced southern Napa Valley, whilst the early receding fog gives us more sunlight and warmer daytime temperatures than the more southerly Carneros region. Our warm summer daytime temperatures and cool evenings result in grapes with rich fruit flavors and an excellent acid balance. Proximity to the San Francisco bay and its moderating influences produces wines deep in color with rich, concentrated fruit flavor and lovely acidity.

Vinification

Petit verdot grapes were gently crushed to minimize crushing of berries and maximize fruit character. We fermented at 85 degrees-F with a Bordeaux yeast strain, and extracted color utilizing gentle irrigation over the skins. The wine underwent malo-lactic fermentation and was barrel aged in a combination of French (78%) and American (22%) oak barrels for 17 months. The wine was not fined prior to bottling. The resulting blend received six months of bottle age prior to release.

Vintage Notes

The 2005 growing season began with wet weather, followed by a dry period in March. Rainfall continued well into spring with later than usual bloom and set and we experienced unseasonable rain into June. The cool weather continued into summer with few heat spikes. As September approached we were concerned that the larger than normal crop would not mature as fog prevailed well into the harvest season, keeping daytime temperatures cool. The long cool growing season gave us excellent wines with beautiful structure, great color and high natural acidity.

Tasting Notes

Our Petit verdot is deep purple in color with aromas of earth and violets. On the palate the wine has smoky, strawberry and black currant fruit flavors. Aging in small barrels has softened the powerful tannins, yielding a beautifully integrated and balanced palate. The perfect accompaniment to hearty meat dishes and aged cheeses.

Technical Analysis

Varietal:	Petit verdot (96%) Cabernet sauvignon (2%) Syrah (2%)
Source:	Massa Ranch, Yountville, Napa Valley
Harvest Date:	September 12, 2005
Harvest Sugar	23.0Brix
Harvest Acid	0.66 gm/100ml
Acid	0.65 gm/100ml
pH	3.65
Alcohol	13.1%
Aging	17 Months, 78% French, 14% new
Bottle Date	March 2007
Production	124 cases

