



*Elizabeth Spencer*TM

2005 Petite Sirah North Coast

Appellation: North Coast
Varietal Blend: 100% Petite Sirah
Production: 12 Barrels
Winemakers: Matthew Rorick and Spencer Graham

Winemaker's Notes

Inky, dark and dense black-purple in color. Enticing aromas of mulberry, blackberry, dark plum, blueberry, cardamom and violet. This rich, mouth filling wine coats the palate and offers flavors of juicy black plum, homemade blackberry cobbler, nutmeg and clove with hints of licorice. Broad and full bodied, the wine is quite focused and well-balanced. Our 2005 Petite Sirah has well-integrated flavors and tannins with a long, lingering finish. Delicious with meats and heartier fare.

Winemaking

Hand-picked and meticulously sorted upon arrival at the winery, our Petite Sirah was fermented with 20% whole clusters for maximum complexity and enhanced structural development. The fermenting juice in tank was given a combination of punch downs and pumpovers. We elected to leave the wine on the skins for two and a half weeks after fermentation in order to increase complexity and soften the tannins. Aged for 20 months in French oak, this wine is showing magnificently upon release and will continue to evolve in bottle.

Vineyards

Our Petite Sirah is from a single vineyard in Suisun Valley, just east over the Vaca Range from Napa Valley. This winegrowing region is characterized by a moderate microclimate caused by the direct cooling influences of San Pablo Bay. Temperatures here allow Petite Sirah grapes to slowly and evenly develop a mature tannin profile while retaining the aromatic complexity and floral notes which disappear when grown on hotter sites.

Vintage

The 2005 growing season in northern California was characterized by two distinct features: a spring with more than usual rain and a slightly cooler than normal summer. As a result, the grapes had an ideally paced development cycle with even ripening throughout. Meticulously tended, our Petite Sirah vineyard was able to produce a well-ripened, richly flavored crop. While distinctly and varietally correct, this wine offers an elegant and complex example of this powerhouse grape.