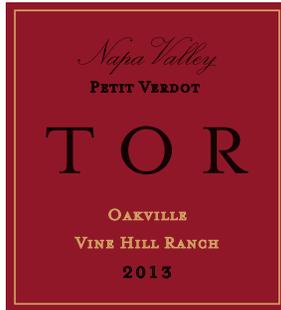


T O R



TOR Petit Verdot Oakville, Vine Hill Ranch, 2013

Blend: 100% Petit Verdot
Production: 25 cases
Release Date: January 2016

Vintage

It started with a warm, early, and dry spring. This is always an advantage, for it gets everything starting uniformly on the right path. The set was smaller than 2012. At the end of June we saw a few days of our only 100 degree weather for the year, then back to ideal growing conditions until we wanted to pick. Some white varietals started to come in the first part of August, making it one of the earliest harvests in recent history. Cabernet Sauvignon was the latest. In September the weather began its fall cooling cycle, and a few light showers slowed the growing pattern till October when we picked most of our Cabernet Family grapes. A long, beautiful growing season for Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vineyards

This vineyard is part of my 39 year history in the Napa Valley. I knew its early stewards Bob and Alex Phillips who bought the vineyard in 1959, and made it one of Napa Valley's stars in the 80s and 90s. The vineyard was first planted in 1884, and is a perfect site for Bordeaux varietals. I work with Bruce Phillips now in block 3D, which is all Petit Verdot. In a nutshell, this is a magical wine when making blends – it can add so much, and in some years, stands alone. Some place and something special here.

Winemaking

The 2013 Vine Hill Petit Verdot was a first shot at this fruit and we had so little of it that it was all fermented in a single large T-bin. This resulted in the wine being done with all punch-downs instead of pump-overs. We did two to three punch-downs each day until about day eight when we backed off to doing one a day so that we would not over extract the fruit (punch-downs are more extractive than pump-overs). The oak on this was a mix of Taransaud and Darnajou which were mixed together before bottling. A really special wine and a real rarity in Napa.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

This may be the rarest varietal bottled on its own in California. To do this, you truly need to have an exceptional site and farm it to perfection. This is why we are lucky enough to work with Vine Hill Ranch in Oakville. Petit Verdot is known for its structure and firm acidity, which this wine has. From this exceptional site, it also has violets, blueberry, and graphite. Anyone who has ever been curious how good PV can be in Napa should try this wine and see what heights it can achieve.