

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

PALISADES VINEYARD

PETITE SIRAH

2015

VINEYARD In its own valley, there is a vineyard east of Calistoga with a whole lot of history going back to pre-prohibition. Rumors of moonshining during prohibition are in the record books, and the surviving old vines of Petite Sirah are infamous. Palisades Vineyard (formerly Carver Sutro) lies in its very own valley, completely isolated from the rest of Napa Valley. The grapes obviously like it there or they wouldn't have survived as long as they have. The new owners are fanatical (in all the right ways) about the farming of this historic site.

.....

WINEMAKING The Petite Sirah was fermented in a single closed top tank. The fermentation was fairly quick at only about 11 days and was done using only pump-overs. Just before going dry, this was pressed to mostly used small French oak barrels where it stayed for about 18 months before going to bottle.

.....

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES Rich does not begin to describe this wine. I have always liked my Petites full throttle, not pretty and delicate. This is rich, intense and black as it can be. There are loads of black fruits, tar and unsmoked tobacco. This should drink well on release as long as it is given air or time in a decanter, but should go 15+ without breaking a sweat.

.....

VINTAGE Over my decades as a Napa vintner I have gained great respect for "drought years." They are yin and yang years, where a farmer has to pay very close attention to each vine. In years like 2015, every vine was pushed to the limit – its access to water, its survival. The survivors make up small crops - that is the "yin." The "yang" is - the quality can be off the charts.

In 2015, we suffered up to 45% losses in several blocks. It was an early start, but cool weather during flowering in May contributed to a less than normal fruit set. The berries that did set were generally much smaller than usual. Once the set was complete, we had warm to very warm conditions up to and through harvest. There was no rush to judgement on when to pick, we had plenty of space at the winery for the short crop, and all the fruit was in before the winter storms started to line up off the coast. Initially, I did not pass judgement on this vintage; but now having tasted all the wines in bottle – it is a great one in all respects.

CASES PRODUCED: 150

