

— R O B E R T —  
**BIALE**  
V I N E Y A R D S

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## **2018 PALISADES VINEYARD**

### **Petite Sirah, Calistoga, Napa Valley**

Domenico Barberis sure knew great potential when he saw it. The young immigrant was from the same village in Italy, Murialdo, as Bob Biale's grandmother—Nonna Cristina Biale. Barberis came to Calistoga in 1902 and soon thereafter was able to start a vineyard and ranch as well as his large family on a scenic property on Horns Creek.

This eastern side of Calistoga features the spectacular geological formation named the Palisades. These dramatic west-facing cliffs are composed of igneous rock and were formed from volcanic upheaval millennia ago. The geological formation stretches for over two miles and reaches elevations at over 3000 ft. It's no wonder the farmland below is perfectly suited to wine grapes. An active creek bed, stones, gravel, and well-drained soil, not to mention extended sunlight, are ideal conditions for ripening grapes for red wines.

The Palisades Vineyard owners are Felicia and Steve Woytak who take great pride as stewards of this historic landmark. The results in a wine glass are as dramatic as the setting.

**Vintage Notes:** Seamless season of heavenly hangtime and phenomenal phenolic development. February saw abundant rains, followed by lots of filtered light in spring and early summer. Both bud break and flowering occurred a bit late, but under ideal weather conditions, creating plentiful and even fruit set. Summer brought generous sun during the day and cooler marine influences, virtually uninterrupted by major heat spikes. The relatively mild summer followed by extended fall sunshine and moderate heat created near-ideal conditions for winemakers to allow their fruit to accumulate flavor complexity with gradual increases in sugar levels. Volume is looking great, up 20-30% increase over average crop quantity.

**Harvest Dates:** 9-29-18

**Winemaking:** The fruit was hand-sorted first in the field then again at the winery. Open-top fermentation and pumped over the skins two times per day. Pressed to 100% French Burgundian Oak of which 30% were new. Aged 18 months.

**Alcohol:** 14.9%

**Winemaker's Tasting Notes:** Deep saturated purple color with dusty notes of minerals, black berry cobbler, dried blueberry, violets, quince and currants. A full/broad tannin structure leads to a long and lingering finish. This masculine Petite Sirah is pleasurable now and built for the long haul – optimal drinking in 5-8 years.

141 cases produced.