

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

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## **2018 ROYAL PUNISHERS**

### **RUTHERFORD, NAPA VALLEY PETITE SIRAH**

Petite Sirah was the most commonly planted grape in Napa Valley for nearly a century and now we are witnessing a resurgence and new appreciation for this historic hero variety!

Known for its dark color, firm structure, and deep blue and black fruit flavors, it is perfectly suited to Napa Valley's moderate and dry growing season.

Petite Sirah was also a favorite grape among winemakers looking to pump up underpowered wines in need of deep fruit, color, and structure. Its natural versatility made it a great counterpart to all red varieties including Zinfandel, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

**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:** 10-19-18

**Winemaking:** The fruit was hand-sorted first in the field then again at the winery. Open-top fermentation and punched down three times per day. Pressed to Burgundian oak – 30% new. Aged 17 months.

**Alcohol:** 14.9%

**Winemaker's Tasting Notes:** The 2018 Royal Punishers has a deep, blackish blue color profile. Aromas of currants, blueberry, quince, violets, figs, molasses and graphite. The entry is weighty with a broad mid-palate structure which has layers of ripe, black fruit flavors. The oak profile is balanced and the tannins are medium grained which hold the fruit profile and carry a long, lingering finish.