

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

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2019 E.B.A.

Petite Sirah, Napa Valley

The idea of a winery holding back vintage wines for extra development before release is not a new one and is historically cross-cultural.

In Spain – Reserva

In Chianti - Riserva

In Champagne – Reserve

At Biale, we use an acronym - E.B.A. – Extended Barrel Aged. In certain vintages we hold back a small number of barrels of our crème de la crème of Petite Sirah to allow for extra development – up to 14 months extra. The extra time in barrel is very kind to the deep fruit and sturdy tannins of Petite Sirah – (well, the right Petite Sirah) adding an extra dimension of fine texture and synthesis with the deep core of dark fruit the grape variety is famous for.

In the glass it adds up to heightened aromatics and a lengthier and spectacularly broad finish – what a French winemaker might call le queue du paon, or the tail of the peacock. A similar result is attained in aging in bottle, but in barrel the effect is superior.

Vintage Notes: A long, warm summer and mild finish to the season. The beginning of the 2019 growing season was defined by copious rainfall and late soil moisture. The long, warm summer saw very few extreme heat events, with foggy mornings setting the stage for vibrant and expressive wines. The long, relatively mild finish to the season, not without its moments of unpredictability, helped to preserve freshness and finesse in the fruit with abundant hang time teasing out great color, structure and soft tannins. Volume is looking to be about average to a little less than average. All in all, exceptional fruit with bright acidity and ample texture promises an amazing vintage.

Harvest Dates: 10-5-19

Winemaking: Our winemaking begins in the vineyard with meticulous attention to detail and close monitoring by Bob Biale and winemaker David Natali. Fruit is hand-harvested, sorted in the field, and sorted again at the winery. Destemmed, the grapes are then fermented in open top tanks with punch downs gently carried out two to three times per day. Pressed, the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation in 100% French oak barrels, of which 25% is new. Aged for 27 months in barrel. Only 147 cases were produced.

Alcohol: 14.8%

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The nose show aromas of cocoa, blackberries, vanilla, baking spices along with a hint of white pepper. Soft and weighty entry with opulent black cherry and raspberry notes layered with polished tannins that build to a long finish.