

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

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## **2021 Royal Punishers**

### **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 blending component to all red varieties including Zinfandel, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

**Vintage Notes:** The growing season saw rain in January and February then almost no notable precipitation for the rest of the season. This provided an ideal environment for grapes to flower, bloom and set in early spring. Budbreak was early in April followed by flowering and bloom in May. The summer saw early and even ripening with no concerning heat spikes. Everything tended early thanks to the calm spring with veraison appearing in early July. Due in part to the drought, yields were naturally lower, resulting in less dropping of fruit in the vineyards. It was one of the earliest starts to harvest on record. Harvest kicked off with clear skies and almost no weather events to worry winemakers. This allowed the grapes to hang as long as winemakers wanted to achieve optimal ripening and taste.

**Harvest Date:** October 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

**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 35% is new. Aged for 15 months in barrel.

**Alcohol:** 14.7%

**Winemaker's Tasting Notes:** A deeply hued wine featuring rich aromatics of plum, coffee, fig, and blackberry. Medium bodied and round with notes of molasses, baking spice, and graphite on the palate. Supple, well-knit tannins frame this wonderfully complex Napa Valley Petite Sirah.