



## **2021 Petite Sirah Dessert Wine**

Napa Valley

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

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Made from Petite Sirah from Obershulte Vineyard in Chiles Valley, Napa Valley. This is our 13<sup>th</sup> bottling of this classic, old-world method, Port-style red wine. Petite Sirah with its brawny structure and deep black fruit is an ideal grape variety for making Port.

**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 Dates:** September 21<sup>st</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 and gently crushed, the Petite Sirah grapes are then fermented in small bins or “lagares” where they are gently foot treaded two to three times per day. High-proof grape brandy is then added to stop fermentation before dryness at 10 degrees Brix to capture the wine’s natural sweetness. The fruit is gently pressed and aged in 33% new French oak barrels for 18 months.

**Alcohol:** 19%

**Winemaker’s Tasting Notes:** Inky dark purple, with notes of bramble berry preserves, pie crust, dried figs, mocha, clove, and dark chocolate. Medium sweetness, firm structure, balanced fruit, acidity, and alcohol. This wine is made more in a vintage style as opposed to an aged tawny. This is a wine that drinks beautifully and shows 10-15 years ageing potential.

Only 173 cases produced.