

# Robert Foley

## VINEYARDS

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### 2017 PETITE SIRAH

Harvest of 2017 was unusually early for us, so the wildfires that ravaged Napa and Sonoma counties that year, happened while our wines were already in tank or barrel. We were thankfully spared from the flames and any smoke damage to our fruit. This wine is 100% varietal Petite Sirah – dark as can be with utterly ripe blackberry-pie aromatics. On the palate, it's full, round, and massive, but with an elegant finish, fine tannins, and nothing overly gripping.

*For lovers of big, extracted red wines, packed with flavor and fine tannins, this is the variety for you! Not to be confused with Syrah... Petite Sirah was originally discovered in 1877 by a French botanist Francois Durif, working at the Montpellier Viticultural Institute in southern France. He found this seedling growing in a Peloursin vineyard and discovered that it had good resistance to downy mildew and named it for himself, Durif.*

*Unfortunately, the tight clusters were prone to bunch rot and the wines that were produced were considered too big and tannic for the French palate and the variety was eradicated in France. It did make its way to California and other parts of the world where it is known as Petite Sirah. There is nothing "petite" about it – even the berries are very large and the wines can be enormous. The key to user friendliness is patience to allow the seeds to ripen, allowing the tannins to relax. Through genetics, it was determined that this variety was the result of pollination of a Peloursin flower with Syrah pollen. Good news: very recently, a French vigneron has re-introduced Petite Sirah to France!*

### SPECIFICATIONS

Wine: 2017 Petite Sirah  
Appellation: Napa Valley  
Vineyard: Calistoga AVA  
Variety: 100% Petite Sirah  
Harvest: Hand-picked October 2017  
Vinification: Ten-day fermentation, French Oak barrels  
Alcohol: 16.5%  
Bottled: May 2019  
Production: 130 cases  
Winemaker: Bob Foley