

BDX COLLECTION
2017 PETIT VERDOT | LIVERMORE VALLEY



HARVEST NOTES

After a trio of very good to great vintages (2012-14) including what was the finest (2013) in more than 20 years of winemaking in the Livermore Valley, 2017 moved the bar even higher. The winter saw very significant rainfall with the arroyos at the base of the Ghielmetti Vineyard running with water for the first time since at least 2005 (Livermore recorded 14 inches of rain, an average year total in January through February alone; significantly, though, only .20 inches from July through October — Harvest time). Late August through October exhibited nearly perfect weather: temperate, practically no rainfall so that fruit came in with balanced ripeness and higher than average quantity from Ghielmetti Vineyard (~285 tons compared to the 5-year running average of 238 tons.)

WINEMAKER NOTES

Though mostly seen as a blender, Petit Verdot made well – the interplay of tannin, sauvage fruit notes, and violet perfume make for a stunning varietal wine. In the Livermore Valley, this variety has found a very hospitable climate: enough warmth to gain full maturity, and the balancing cool evenings that lead to acid retention and balance. The 2017 Petit Verdot is best served with 6-12 months of bottle age before drinking.

TASTING NOTES

Always somewhat reductive and earthy in the fermenter, Petit Verdot very often veers to the floral as its chief aromatic note (think violet and lavender). The 2017 vintage does show a floral tinge around the edges of beautifully ripe black and purple fruit notes. In the mouth, this offering shows the seriousness of structure that attends Petit Verdot in practically every vintage. On entry, the dark fruit flavors are muted under the influence of oak though they show themselves very obviously from mid-palate to finish. The oak is sensed rather than tasted, as the notes of toasty barrel are not an obvious part of this wine. On the finish, the wine's flavors and structure extend for a long time while being bracketed by significant tannin. Over 12-24 months this wine will begin to open to show gorgeous richness and integrated structure. It should evolve beautifully over the next 7-10 years.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Petit Verdot from Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard which sits on the eastern end of the 7-mile axis of world-class quality cutting through the heart of Livermore Valley wine country.

HARVEST DATA

October 2, 2017 | pH 3.52 | TA .62 | Alcohol 14.8%

FERMENTATION

Cold soaked for 5-7 days, individual fermenters inoculated with the D254, NT112, BDX, and D-21 yeast strains. Extended maceration of 14 days followed primary fermentation.

COOPERAGE

Aged for 20 months in 50% new French oak barrels. Primary coopers were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

155 cases

RELEASE DATE

December 3, 2020