



CHATEAU MONTELENA
ESTABLISHED 1882

2013 Napa Valley Petite Sirah

Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton

INTRODUCTION

Petite Sirah can truly be a diamond in the rough from some of California's best producers. Rich, velvety, dense, and—at Montelena—ageable; these wines are typically an excellent value. Our dry-farmed Petite Sirah comes from 100-year-old vines on the south-west side of Calistoga. As is the case in the vineyard—where ignoring the temptation for over-ripeness is paramount—in the cellar we grapple with the seemingly ubiquitous tendency to over-extract, and instead aim for balance, structure, and nuance, the cornerstones of great wine.

VINTAGE WEATHER

From the outset, 2013 had the makings of a blockbuster year. Little to no spring rain set the vineyards up for early season stress resulting in concentrated fruit with deep, dark color. The vines thrived in the heat of the summer and ripening progressed slowly and methodically. Compared to the acclaimed 2012 vintage, the 2013 wines will be remembered for their density and power.

NOSE

An endless parade of red and dark fruit emerges as the wine opens with blackberry, strawberry jam, and dried fig in quick succession. These yield quickly to softer notes of cocoa and anise which become more pronounced with time in the glass.

PALATE

The acidity and tannins of this wine are an immediate one-two punch but are complemented by undertones of dried plum, allspice, and hazelnut, all wrapped in a finely-knit texture that will need time to open up.

FINISH

There's a hint of Earl Grey tea on the finish as the mouthfeel transitions from somewhat coarse and angular to smooth and viscous. The black pepper notes are unmistakable as are the hints of cedar and cloves.

Technical Information

HARVEST DATES

September 23

ALCOHOL

14.2%

BLEND

100% Petite Sirah

BARREL AGING

22 months in 100% French oak

BOTTLING DATE

August 2015

WINEMAKER

Matt Crafton