

As Seen On...

THE AUTHENTIC BARTENDER
BLOG

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SURROUNDINGS

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***‘SIGNATURE’ RED VARIETIES CAN MAKE STARS OUT OF WINES
THAT RISK BEING OVERLOOKED***

BY MARY EWING-MULLIGAN AND ED McCARTHY

Many wine lists are organized by grape variety—and generally the categories are those of such major international grapes as Cabernet, Merlot and Chardonnay.

Wines that are not made primarily from these varieties fall into the category of “Other Whites” or “Other Reds,” as if they were second-class citizens. We would prefer to see menus list a category called “Signature Native Varieties” or a similar name.

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Even California has a signature red variety in Petite Sirah. Apparently a descendant of obscure French varieties, Petite Sirah has a cult following. Petite Sirah belies its name in that wines made from this variety are anything but petite; they are invariably dark-colored, massive, tannic wines.

Even just a few wines from these varieties can turn a “Signature Native Red Varieties” category into the most exciting section of a wine list.

