

Tasting Notes

Except where noted, the wines below were tasted open.
All need years to develop, or try now with roasted meats.

Exceptional

2000 **Eos** Petite Sirah, Paso Robles, "Cupa Grandis: (\$45): Powerful and complex with hints of pepper, clove, and blackberry. Exotic and structured with huge tannins so aging required. But time will make it more supple. Previously reviewed.

2000 **Lava Cap** Petite Sirah, El Dorado County, Reserve (\$35): Dense color and aroma, potent blackberry and plum with a huge mouth-filling taste. Needs decades. Previously reviewed.

2000 **Trentadue** Petite Sirah, Dry Creek Valley (\$30): Blackberry and a note of chocolate from French oak aging. Truly backward; needs at least five more years to even begin thinking of trying it.

2000 **David Bruce** Petite Syrah (sic), Paso Robles, Shell Creek

(\$25): Not as dense as the prior wines, but violet and lavender notes amid blackberry and plum. Rich fruit. Shorter aging potential.

2000 **Dry Creek** Petite Sirah, Dry Creek Valley (\$28): Black pepper and spice with a hint of clove adds interest to a classically structured wine with jam in the finish. Needs a decade.

2001 **Christopher Creek** Petite Sirah, Russian River (\$28): Awfully young, but aeration opens the wine to show jam, blackberry and spice notes. Lower in alcohol (13.5%) than most so better balanced.

2001 **Rosenblum** Petite Sirah, Dry Creek Valley, "Rockpile Road" (\$28): Huge chocolate and berry notes; slightly softer than most but a massive slug of tannin.

Very Highly Recommended

2000 **Trentadue** Petite Sirah,

Alexander Valley (\$25): Slightly less complex than the prior wine, with jam, plum and chocolate notes. Should age nicely, but not as long as the Dry Creek version.

2000 **J. Pedroncelli** Petite Sirah, Dry Creek Valley (\$20): Rich fruit of blackberry and raspberry spice (from 20% Zinfandel). Subtle use of oak, and a plump, powerful finish. Built for the long haul.

1999 **Cilurzo** Petite Sirah, Temecula (\$15): Rich plum and cassis aroma with medium body and good aging potential for the next four to six years.

A note on the tasting: The second annual PS I Love You symposium, dedicated to the Petite Sirah grape, was staged this past Tuesday at the Foppiano Winery in Healdsburg. These wines were evaluated there.

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