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Petite Sirah

We do not normally separate out wines by varietal but Petite Sirah perhaps deserves special consideration--at least occasionally. Petite Sirah originated in southern France where the grape is known as Durif. It grows in very dense bunches with virtually no separation or air space between the berries. This means that it is very susceptible to moulds and rot if the humidity is high or there is any significant amount of rain during the growing season. Because it rains often during the growing season in the south of France, Durif does not do well there. However, in California where it seldom rains during the majority of the growing season, Durif produces highly desirable wines labeled Petite Sirah. They range in style from big, bold, and tannic to elegant and when well made in whatever style, they are usually long lived and can easily age for a decade or more.

- Harold J. Baer, Jr.
Managing Editor | Publisher



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