

MORE POWERHOUSE PETITE SIRAHS

By Ellen Landis

Epiphany 2004 Petite Sirah, Rodney's Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley

Essence of warm blackberry pie with nutmeg and all spice accents captivate the nose and carry richly through mid palate. Beautifully structured, with great depth and purity of fruit that deservedly command full attention. Ends with a touch of vanilla and spice on the persistent finish. Delicious with a spicy lamb ragout served over savory polenta.

Miro 2005 Petite Sirah, Sommers Vineyard, Dry Creek Valley

Darkly hued, with stunning aromas of concentrated berries, peppery spice and a hint of leather wafting from the glass. Explosion of juicy black plums and crushed blueberries take center stage on the palate, surrounded by spice and mineral notes. Powerful fruit and firm tannins are nicely balanced and coat the mouth fully. A complex, ageworthy wine that will go the distance. Pair with a sizzling steak Diane!

Parducci 2004 True Grit Petite Sirah, Mendocino County

Big, bold and hearty; just like a Petite Sirah should be. Aromas of wild blackberries and vanilla lead to a mouthful of dark juicy plums accented by a glorious crown of black pepper and anise. Plump, rich texture shows nicely after aeration, rounding out the edges of this powerhouse petite sirah. Serve with a roasted filet mignon with Roquefort sauce.

Ursa 2004 Petite Sirah, El Dorado

Aromas of succulent, jammy blackberry fruit and lip-smacking grape candy lure you into the glass. Gobs of juicy blackberry and boysenberry flavors and a dash of spearmint command full attention on mid palate. Spice notes add complexity to this beautifully structured wine that lingers seductively on the finish. Serve with herb encrusted lamb and a fresh mint sauce.

Ursa Vineyards 2004 Vineyard Blend Petite Sirah

Crushed blackberries and plenty of spice greet the nose invitingly. A luscious mouthful of concentrated plums and mixed red and black fruit explodes on the palate and the intensity continues throughout. With just the right touch of oak, this petite sirah drinks beautifully now; yet shows plenty of structure and tannins to go the distance. Pair with roasted venison with plum sauce - heavenly!

Mounts 2005 Petite Sirah, Dry Creek Valley

Dark inky hue, with deep, pleasing aromas of warm mixed berry compote and herb scented vanilla notes. Love the purity of fruit on mid palate! Blueberry and blackberry flavors galore, velvety tannins, with subtle spice and a hint of smokey tobacco adding complexity. Serve with lamb noisettes and a mixed berry compote.

39 Degrees 2005 Petite Sirah, Lake County

Dusty wild red berry aromas up front; soft and approachable with bright cherry and strawberry flavors and a hint of spice dancing on the palate; this petite sirah is nicely balanced with an elegance about it! Serve with a cherry stuffed pork tenderloin.

