

Wine & Spirits

SPECIAL ISSUE
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best rediscovered varieties

REBELS ROCK THE

BEST

IN THE WORLD OF

WINE



United States **Petite Sirah**

A thick-skinned variety native to the south of France, petite sirah is built to take the heat of California's sun. When allowed to grow deep-rooted as an old vine, this variety can ripen well in a hot, dry climate. Once widely planted in Napa Valley, there are still a few pockets of old-vine petite amidst the fields of cabernet. In regions such as Mendocino and Paso Robles, where cult cabernet never uprooted it, there is some exceptional old-vine petite, as well as new plantings.

How it Tastes Black in color, bold and purple-fruited, petite sirah can make wines ranging from rustic to elegant. Its thick skins provide substantial tannins for long aging, when the wine is designed with the balance of extract and freshness to sustain it. —J.G.

Wines to Watch

PS I Love You Members listed below...

Eos (Paso Robles Cupa Grandis Peck Ranch
Vineyard Block # 7, \$55; Reserve, \$25)
Foppiano (Russian River Valley, \$25)
Girard (Napa Valley, \$24)

Parducci (Mendocino True Grit, \$25)
Ridge (California York Creek, \$24)

Rosenblum (Rockpile—Dry Creek Valley Rockpile Road Vyd., \$40;
Napa Valley Pickett Road, \$28)
Stags' Leap Winery (Napa Valley, \$35)

