



2016 ESTATE PETITE SIRAH

Harvest: September 27th, 2016

Vineyard Block: East Ridge Block

Planted: 2004

Aspect: Gentle north sloping hillside

Soil: Hugo Loam

Rootstock: St. George

Clone: 03

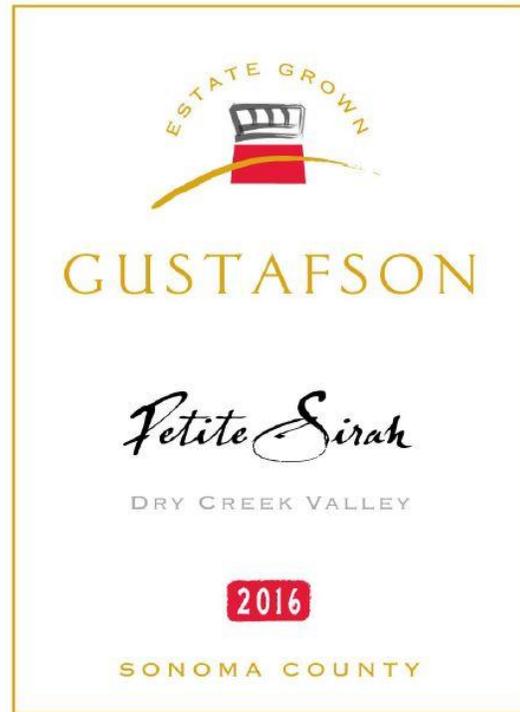
Blend: 95% Petite Sirah & 5% Zinfandel

Aging: 18 Months – 55% new oak
40% French, 15% American

Alcohol: 14.9%

Total Production: 400 cases

Release Date: Fall 2018



Vintage Notes: The 2016 vintage was marked by the return of winter rains to parched regions of California. Heralded as an “El Nino” year, the expectations for significant winter rains were quite high with hopes of breaking the five-year drought. Though falling short of lofty expectations, we recorded 58.3 inches of rain at the estate, nearly equaling the last two winters combined. The soaking rains allowed our vines to sleep a little deeper than the previous two years, waking from their winter slumber on February 21st. Bud break was followed by a gentle spring and a cooler-than-usual summer. These cooler conditions allowed the grapes to linger on the vine and soak up the delicious flavors of California sunshine. Harvested at peak maturity, the wines of the 2016 vintage are of excellent quality and a prime example of California winegrowing at its finest.

Winemaking Notes: Harvested in the cool morning hours of September 27th, our East Ridge Block of Petite Sirah demonstrated classic varietal characteristics. A prolonged end to the growing season allowed the grapes to linger on the vine a bit longer than usual. This extra hang-time imparted additional depth and complexity to the wine. A smooth fermentation with manual punch downs allowed for the vineyard and season to truly express themselves through the wine. Big and bold with dark fruit notes leading to a solid tannic core, this wine pairs well with hearty winter meals and will age in the cellar for at least another ten years.

Tasting Notes: Our flag-ship Petite Sirah is always a true crowd pleaser and the 2016 vintage is no exception. Consistently praised for high quality and value, our Petite Sirah is full-bodied matched by a beautiful smooth and velvety mouthfeel, with aromas of blackcurrant and violet followed by a touch of clove and sweet tobacco. Favorable growing conditions allowed for a wine with richly layered flavors of blackberry and blueberry alongside notes of toasty hazelnuts and a hint of leather. Our Petite Sirah pairs stunningly with rich braised meats, hearty soups and stews or a big juicy cheese burger.