



2019 Dunnigan Hills Petite Sirah, Windmill Vineyard

100% Petite Sirah from the Windmill Vineyard. These heat-loving vines were planted years ago to match the sunny climate and gravelly clay soils of the Dunnigan Hills. For years they were the only vines on the property in this beautiful but hot and desolate winegrowing region, surrounded by olive trees and open fields. The Dunnigan Hills have more in common with Northern Spain than with a typical California wine region.

We love aged old school Petite Sirah, bright and brambly, nothing like the heavy, jammy wine that is more typical these days. We purposefully made this wine to age before release, which is why we are just now offering the 2019 vintage, four years after the harvest.

The grapes were fermented 50% whole cluster to capture more earthiness and spice. We aged the wine for 10 months in neutral barrels, then bottled early to maintain freshness and develop bouquet in bottle. There was no fining or filtering, and only native yeasts were used in the fermentation.

The pH is 3.63, the TA is 4.8 g/l, and the alcohol is 12.4%. 217 cases produced.

The wine has aromas of black currants, dark cherries, and dried plums, along with earthy and savory flavors like tobacco, black Kalamata olive, and Jamón. The refreshing grainy tannins disappear quickly, leaving a clean finish with a hint of minerality. Magically, because it is without a trace of heaviness, the Petite Sirah reflects the warmth and sunlight of the variety and where it was grown.

The Vineyard

Sergio Villanueva farms the Certified Organic Windmill vineyard for the owner Jeff Morgan under our direction and tutelage. He knows practically every vine by name, and carefully nurtures the vineyard with tremendous pride. The Windmill Vineyard is situated up on the pinkish gravelly alluvial soils of the Dunnigan Hills AVA in Yolo County. It is a hot climate, and the fruit ripens fast, allowing us to harvest ripe fruit at low sugar levels, keeping the alcohol moderate and the flavors vivid and intense without any heaviness in the wines.