

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

2016 WINEMAKER SERIES PETIT VERDOT

NAPA VALLEY

This Winemaker Series selection was crafted exclusively for our wine club members.

VINEYARDS AND WINEMAKING

Petit Verdot is one of the five main Bordeaux varietals, along with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. Dark and dense with a perfumed nose, Petit Verdot is usually used in small amounts to lift the aromatics and add body and complexity to Cabernet Sauvignon. In 2016, Winemaker Marcus Notaro was extremely impressed by the Petit Verdot from the Hardester Vineyard and decided to produce this bottling.

Great Petit Verdot needs sunlight, heat and long hangtime. The Hardester Vineyard is a perfect site with good exposure to the sun and favorable shifts from warm sunny days to cool evenings, extending hangtime. This wine is a blend of 80% Petit Verdot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. The Petit Verdot is entirely sourced from the Hardester Vineyard in Pope Valley while the Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from several vineyards.

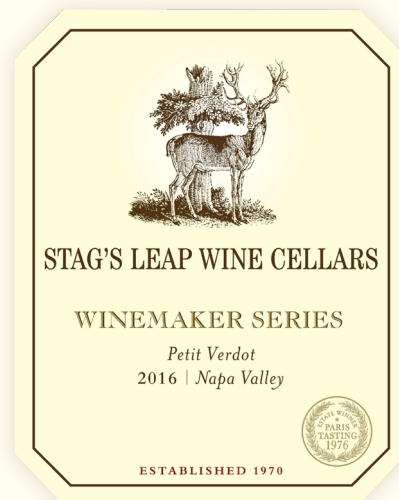
The wine was fermented in 100% stainless steel. After fermentation, the wine was aged for 20 months in 100% new French oak.

VINTAGE

Although bud-break in Napa Valley was early in 2016, the season was much cooler than normal. We didn't get the usual high heat in July and August, which provided for a longer hang time for the grapes. Overall, quality was high and particularly at our FAY and S.L.V. estate vineyards. The grapes in FAY and S.L.V. ripened uniformly and while yields were a bit lower than average, the flavors were great, and the tannins were soft and supple. The harvest was smooth and progressed from varietal to varietal with the Sauvignon Blanc coming in first, then the Chardonnay, and time in between to transition to the reds. In late September, we started bringing in Cabernet Sauvignon from across the valley for our ARTEMIS Cabernet Sauvignon and it was interesting that the grapes – all the way from the cooler Coombsville area up to the warmer parts of St. Helena – ripened at the same time. We completed the Petit Verdot and Cabernet harvest in October.

WINE

This Petit Verdot has a perfumed nose filled with floral and spice along with notes of cassis, green tea, dried lavender and sage. The wine is dark in color and rich with polished tannins and a concentrated finish. Pork roast with rosemary and sage or smoked beef brisket would be a nice complement to this wine.



HARVEST:	<i>October 12, 2016</i>
ALCOHOL:	<i>14.5%</i>
pH:	<i>3.91</i>
TA:	<i>0.48 g/100ml</i>
FERMENTATION:	<i>100% Stainless steel</i>
BARREL AGING:	<i>20 months in 100% new French oak</i>
BLEND:	<i>80% Petit Verdot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
APPELLATION:	<i>Napa Valley</i>
CASES PRODUCED:	<i>277 cases</i>
SUGGESTED RETAIL:	<i>\$65 per bottle</i>
RELEASE DATE:	<i>March 2019</i>

Marcus Notaro
WINEMAKER