

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

2015 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 2015, 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 95% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. The Petit Verdot is entirely sourced from the Hardester Vineyard in Pope Valley while the Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from several vineyards.

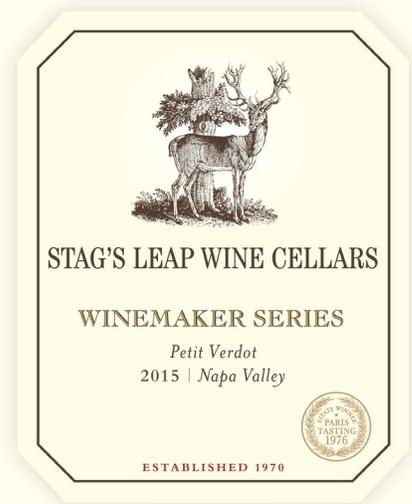
40% of this wine was fermented in open-topped, new French Oak barrels (turned upright with the barrel heads removed) and punch downs took place four times a day. This method helps create pure aromas in the finished wine as well as more integrated tannins with a silkier texture. After fermentation, the wine was aged for 21 months in 100% new French oak.

VINTAGE

Overall, 2015 was a year with lower than usual crop size but with high quality fruit. The growing season was hot and dry and harvest started and ended early. A very warm and relatively dry winter led to early bud break but, conversely, temperatures were abnormally low during the bloom period in May. During this extended bloom, there were two small rain events that resulted in a high incidence of 'shatter,' reducing tonnage. While it was a challenging vintage, by continually adjusting to the challenges and employing best practices, the grapes brought into the winery were of high quality.

WINE

This Petit Verdot has a perfumed nose filled with pomegranate, floral, espresso and cinnamon. The mouthfeel is rich and dense with fruit, spice and earth notes. The tannins are powerful, yet rounded, on the finish. Pork roast with rosemary and sage or smoked beef brisket would be a nice complement to this wine.



HARVEST:	<i>October 14, 2015</i>
ALCOHOL:	<i>14.5%</i>
pH:	<i>4.00</i>
TITRATABLE ACIDITY:	<i>0.56 g/100ml</i>
FERMENTATION:	<i>40% open-topped barrels, 60% Stainless steel</i>
BARREL AGING:	<i>21 months in 100% new French oak</i>
BLEND:	<i>95% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
APPELLATION:	<i>Napa Valley</i>
CASES PRODUCED:	<i>120 cases</i>
SUGGESTED RETAIL:	<i>\$65 per bottle</i>
RELEASE DATE:	<i>March 2018</i>


Marcus Notaro
WINEMAKER