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2015 ROYAL PUNISHERS RUTHERFORD, NAPA VALLEY PETITE SIRAH

Petite Sirah was the most commonly planted grape in Napa Valley for nearly a century and now we are witnessing a resurgence and new appreciation for this historic hero variety!

Known for its dark color, firm structure, and deep blue and black fruit flavors, it is perfectly suited to Napa Valley's moderate and dry growing season.

Petite Sirah was also a favorite grape among winemakers looking to pump up underpowered wines in need of deep fruit, color, and structure. Its natural versatility made it a great counterpart to all red varieties including Zinfandel, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vintage Notes: Early harvest yields high quality wine grape crop. In spite of dry conditions, vintners are using words like "quality," "complexity", "ageability", and "excellent" to describe their expectations for the 2015 vintage in Napa Valley. Harvest started and ended with record early dates.

Harvest Dates: September 10-11, 2015

Winemaking: The fruit was hand-sorted first in the field then again at the winery. Open-top fermentation and punched down three times per day. Pressed to Burgundian oak – 30% new. Aged 17 months.

Alcohol: 14.9%

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The 2015 Royal Punishers has an intense deep, dark blue/black color profile. Aromas of plum, quince, violets, figs, molasses, caramel and marbled rye awaken the nose. The entry is soft and weighty, then builds into a broad mid palate structure which has layers of ripe, black fruit flavors. The tannins are mouthwatering and medium grained which hold the fruit profile and carry a long, lingering finish.