

CHAPPELLET



VINEYARD

1997 PRITCHARD HILL ESTATE VINEYARD

VINTAGE NOTES, Winemaker Phillip Corallo-Titus

Like the Bordeaux that inspired our original desire to produce Cabernet Sauvignon, the Pritchard Hill Estate Vineyard (PHEV) is a classic combination of three of the five traditional blending varietals: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The resulting wine combines a concentration and complexity that is rarely found in any Cabernet. This is a debut release that we are extremely proud of.

VINTAGE:

The 1997 growing season delivered its first of many surprises with unusually warm dry weather beginning in late January, leading to early bud break in March. Sunny, temperate weather continued through summer, contributing to a very long, even growing season, resulting in that rare combination of bountiful quantity and exquisite quality.

VITICULTURE:

The PHEV Cabernet Sauvignon is produced entirely from grapes grown on the southwest section of Pritchard Hill located on the eastern slope of the Napa Valley. The thin, rocky soils restrict the vines to low yields of intensely-flavored fruit, approximately 2 to 3 tons per acre. On each vine, leaves are removed from around the grape clusters, and shoots are trellised and tied into a vertical position, so that each cluster is fully exposed to the sun. This encourages full ripeness and fruity versus herbal flavors.

VINIFICATION:

The grapes are fermented in stainless steel tanks and then aged in French oak barrels, 70% of which were new, for a total of 22 months. During aging the wine was racked every four months for aroma and tannin development. After the first 6 months of aging, the PHEV blend was determined by selecting the most extraordinarily concentrated, full-bodied and complex lots of Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. The wine is then barrel-aged for an additional 16 months to allow the components to integrate before bottling. In addition to creating its complex structure, the process also produced a wine crimson in color.

WINE PROFILE:

AROMAS:

This deep ruby-red Cabernet Sauvignon presents a complex nose of concentrated blackberry, black cherry and dark cassis. The super-ripe fruit aromas are balanced by a background of toasty French oak, roasted coffee, and hints of anise and sweet tobacco.

FLAVORS:

The mouth delivers powerful flavors of ripe fruit and spice all wrapped up in a dense, seamless structure of mouthfilling, velvety tannins and a long rich finish. The future of this monumental Cabernet Sauvignon promises additional complexity and integration of flavors which will surely please the patient collector.

TECHNICAL DATA:

Blend: 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot, 4% Cabernet Franc

Ta: 0.62 g/l

pH: 3.54

Alcohol: 14.5%

Bottling Date: September 1999, Production: 2,300 6-bottle cases