

# DARMS LANE

*Napa Valley*



## 2016 PETIT VERDOT, NAPA VALLEY

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**VINEYARD:** The Estate Bon Passe Vineyard is located in the southwestern bench lands of Napa Valley, in the Oak Knoll District appellation. The vineyard is planted of only 4 rows of Petit Verdot.

**APPELLATION:** Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley

**VARIETAL:** 100% Petit Verdot

**GROWING SEASON NOTES:** The 2016 vintage started out very similar to the 2015 vintage with a mild February leading to an earlier bud break of late March for the Petit Verdot at our estate vineyard. May, June, and July were consistently warm and pleasant leading to expectations of another extremely early harvest. But with a lack of extreme heat spikes in August and September and moderate temperatures, we were able to let the fruit hang and gradually ripen. Several nice warm spells the last week in September and first weeks of October pushed the grapes to a lovely ripeness. We harvested the Petit Verdot on October 12th before season ending rain hit the Valley a couple days later.

**DETAILS:** Petit Verdot is considered a blending grape and we ferment and age a few barrels of it every year. Most years, it adds complexity to our Bon Passe Cabernet and Linda's Hillside Cabernet. In exceptional years, we keep a few barrels and bottle it on its own. The 2016 vintage is our ninth bottling of 100% estate grown Petit Verdot.

**WINEMAKER:** Brian Mox

**BARREL AGING:** 20 months in Oak – 30% New: 100% French

**WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES:** Our concentrated lush purple colored Petit Verdot reveals notes of dark cherry, plum and boysenberry with savory hints of mocha and toasty oak. The palate is rich with dark berries and cherry, dried herbs and mocha. The Petit Verdot was especially balanced and fruitful from the vintage, we recommend some cellaring and aerative decanting for the next couple of years (through 2023).

**PRODUCTION:** 39 cases