



ESTATE BOTTLED PETITE SIRAH
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY : V. 2008



HARVEST DATES : SEPTEMBER 16 – OCTOBER 16, 2008

ALCOHOL : 15.2%

PH : 3.67

TA : 0.55G/100ML

BARRELS : 25% NEW FRENCH OAK, 5% NEW HUNGARIAN OAK, 70% NEUTRAL OAK

BOTTLED : JULY 7–9, 2010

CASES PRODUCED : 6,200

VINEYARDS Located just south of the town of Healdsburg, Foppiano Vineyards sits on 160 acres in the acclaimed appellation of the Russian River Valley. Cool morning fog and warm summer days create an ideal microclimate for grape growing. The Foppiano family has been producing world class fruit on this land since its purchase in 1896. Today the vineyard is planted to Petite Sirah, Zinfandel, and Sauvignon Blanc on the warmer bench lands, and Pinot Noir and Chardonnay on the cooler lower lying land close to the Russian River.

WINEMAKING While many winemakers treat Petite Sirah like Cabernet, Winemaker Natalie West prefers gentle handling of her Estate Petite Sirah and goes so far as to treat it like her Pinot Noir. Once in the cellar, the Petite Sirah experiences a gentle press and is fermented in open top fermenters with punch downs three times a day. To help control tannins Natalie only uses 30 percent new oak. While most of the oak is French, she does like a touch of American oak to add a little sweetness to the finish. After the aging process the barrels are blended before bottling.

TASTING NOTES On the nose blueberries and dark chocolate are the predominant aromatics with a touch of floral and spice. Flavors of blueberry, blackberry and black cherry commingle with hints of graham cracker and vanilla and a touch of white pepper. The well structured tannins produce a long silky finish with fruit to the end.