

VARIETAL COLLECTION

Petit Verdot

BY CALDWELL

2021

Vintage:	Eleventh
Composition:	98% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Clone:	400
Appellation:	Napa Valley, Coombsville District
Vineyard:	Caldwell Vineyard Estate, Established 1981
Vineyard Blocks:	Caldwell 15 and 17
Yield:	3.0 Tons per Acre on Average
Average Vine Age:	35 Years
Grape Varieties:	See Composition Section
Rootstock:	Multiple

Vintage Summary: The 2021 Vintage can be classified as a severe drought year here in Napa Valley. With only 7.3" of rain from January to March, bud break was early, and bloom had higher stress than typical – leading to a smaller crop. Currently, I'm drawing comparisons in the cellar to the 2015 vintage, but with much less heat towards the end of the growing season, helping retain freshness and varietal expression and individuality. Overall, a very high-quality vintage (if you had water to irrigate with, which we luckily did), I foresee the vintage to be known for its structure, freshness, and long-term age-ability.

Harvest Date:	Multiple
Fermentation:	Stainless Steel
Yeast:	Multiple
ML Bacteria:	Multiple
Wood Origin:	100% French Oak (Jupilles, Bercé)
Aging:	18 Months
New Oak Barrels:	0%
Fining:	None
Filtering:	None
Alcohol:	15.1%
Bottling Date:	July 10, 2023

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The Caldwell Varietal Collection Petit Verdot always has a core of brambly, blackberry compote and black herbal liqueur notes, surrounded by layers of tar and fresh tobacco. This bottling in 2021 did not make any exception. I'd gamble to say the only main differences on the nose are a slightly more elevated floral minerality relative to the 2019 (likely due to the dose of powerful Cabernet Franc). The palate is filled with very pure black fruits and dark fruit weight, like the 2019, but with a power and intensity that resonates through the finish in a typical 2021 way, only similar in my mind to 2013.

Cellaring:	Now–20 Years
Production:	52 Cases
Price:	\$125/750mL

