

“An inviting bouquet of toasted pastry frames the intense dark fruit characters of blackberry and olallieberry on the palate. Our gentle approach to winemaking delivers a juicy tannin structure with exquisite length and concentration.”

- Steve Peck

DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING

2017 J. LOHR TOWER ROAD PETITE SIRAH Paso Robles

J. LOHR VINEYARD SERIES

VINEYARDS

In the vineyards surrounding Tower Road, in the Estrella and San Miguel districts of Paso Robles, our Petite Sirah thrives on the well-drained yet heavier clay soils of the area. The rarity of autumn rains in Paso Robles allows this tight-clustered variety to reach full maturity almost every year, without the risk of bunch-rot that exists in damper regions of the state as well as parts of Europe. Our ripening program requires that we apply netting to the vines in August in order to ensure that birds don't overfeed on this especially flavorful grape before harvest. Intense summer sun and very warm daytime temperatures in Paso Robles are balanced by the gentle afternoon breezes that creep in from the Monterey Bay to the north and from the Templeton Gap to the west. These winds cool the area by as much as fifty degrees by early morning, preserving the acidity and bright fruit character of our Petite Sirah.

VINTAGE

In 2017, budbreak occurred in the normal timeframe, with vines waking from dormancy by the first week of April followed by bloom in the middle of May. Crop set was fair, with yields averaging five tons per acre on our Petite Sirah after dropping fruit in late July. An extreme heat wave in early September brought temperatures as high as 115°F along the Central Coast. Thankfully, our Petite Sirah crop was still weeks away from harvest and came through the heat unharmed. At harvest, we saw a higher level of sugar and flavor ripeness than we had seen since the string of great vintages from '12 to '14; the 2017 Tower Road is emblematic of the dense concentrated flavors that evolve in great vintages.

HARVEST

DATES
September 15, 19 and
October 19, 2017

PROCESS
Hand-harvested into half-ton bins and gondolas

CHEMISTRIES
Brix 26.6°
TA 0.52 g/100ml
pH 3.86

COMPOSITION
100% Petite Sirah

VINIFICATION

YEAST
Uvaferm 43 yeast

FERMENTATION
Destemmed, whole berry fermentation

TEMPERATURE
Moderate temperatures to reduce seed tannin extraction

MACERATION
2-day cold soak with a short, 3-day fermentation prior to drain and press

MATURATION

TIME IN BARREL
16 months barrel age

BARREL TYPE
225 liter French oak Burgundy export barrels, 80% new

FORESTS
Rive Droit and a blend of five forests

COOPERS
Vallaurine and Marcel Cadet

BOTTLING

ACIDITY
pH 3.68
TA 0.58 g/100ml

ALCOHOL
14.4 % by volume

PRODUCTION
4,114 six-bottle cases

CELLARING

This dense wine opens up early with a splash-decant, and should develop in the bottle for up to 8 years.

FOOD PAIRINGS

Pairs well with aromatic herbs and pan-seared meat dishes such as rosemary lamb chops with roasted fennel.

WINE LIST DESCRIPTION

Toasted pastry aromas with juicy blackberry and olallieberry fruit on the palate.

