

# 2005 Petite Sirah – “Starry Night”

## LIVERMORE VALLEY

With each new 2005 vintage wine release, especially from our new estate site — the Ghielmetti Vineyard — my opinion of the overall quality of this year increases. Beautifully balanced and immensely flavorful, these wines, as a collection, are the finest we have produced to date.

*Starry Night* is a perfect example of the virtues of 2005: a blend of 78.9% Petite Sirah, 11.5% Syrah, and 9.6% Cabernet, the wine’s aroma explodes from the glass...violets, dark chocolate, black fruits, and toasty oak mirror the bold flavors of blackberry, blueberry, and tobacco. In the mouth the wine coats the tongue and the significant tannic structure (think ageability) are evident on the finish.



One of the Livermore Valley’s superstar varieties, Petite Sirah can make world-class wine. Blending its floral and red/black fruit qualities with significant tannic contribution, this grape reminds me somewhat of a cockier, if less complex, version of big Cabernet. This wine will continue to evolve over the next five to seven years and could use a year or two in bottle before being drunk. Made exclusively for members of our Collector’s Circle, only 234 cases were produced.

### VINTAGE

**Harvest Date:** October 5 - 26, 2005

**Fruit:** Petite Sirah and Syrah from Ghielmetti Vineyard, Block 14 and Block 10 respectively; Cabernet from McGrail Vineyard, clone 15. Alcohol 14.6%.

**Fermentation:** After destemming and crushing the fruit was fermented separately in ¾ ton open-topped fermenters. Fermentation and maceration lasted about two weeks. Malo-lactic fermentation was induced in barrel.

**Aging:** This wine was aged in predominantly new American oak barrels. A smaller percentage of Hungarian and French barrels were used.

**Time in Barrel:** 18 months

**Release Date:** September 15, 2007. 234 Cases produced.

### VINEYARD

**Location:** Ghielmetti Vineyard located in the eastern end of the Livermore Valley, 3.2 miles east of the Winery; n37° 39' 40.2" Latitude and w121° 39' 48.5" Longitude, 899 feet above sea level.

**Soil:** Sandy loam.

**Training:** Vertical Shoot Position (VSP) trellis.

### GROWING SEASON

**Rainfall:** 18.85 inches

**Bloom:** May

**Weather:** Very wet winter led to mild summer. Cool and stable temperatures contributed to a relatively long growing season with some lots coming into the winery 30 days later than the year before.

### ARTWORK

“Starry Night” is an interpretation of the Vincent Van Gogh work of the same name. It was created by Dominic Morretta, son of our very own, Tracey Morretta, when he was 8 years old. Chalk on construction paper was this artist’s medium. When not creating art, Dominic enjoys playing baseball and skateboarding.