

2017 Petit Lot Violette

52% Cabernet Franc, 26% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot & 9% Malbec. The unirrigated vines were planted in 1999 on a small ridge with the soil comprising of gravelly loam adjacent to our oldest Cabernet vines. The vines are planted in a North South row orientation allowing for optimal sunlight and ripening time. Each year Chris cane prunes the vines to ensure that the vine and crops are balanced. The fruit was handpicked on different dates from some of our oldest vines. The grapes were sorted, crushed and destemmed, and then inoculated for fermentation in 1000 litre open fermenters, which were regularly and manually plunged. The wine was gently pressed off using our traditional hand-operated basket press, and then racked to French barriques for 15 months of maturation prior to bottling. The Cabernet Franc brings a lifted bouquet of dark berries, while the Malbec leaves a rich and lingering flavour on the palate. A refined and elegant wine with supple, yet firm tannins leaving you wanting more. This wine is drinking beautifully now, but will also reward cellaring for 10+ years.

Past Vintage Ratings

2014 94/100 James Halliday

2013 94/100 James Halliday

2017 Vintage

The winter was a long one in 2016, so bud burst and flowering occurred much later than we've seen in recent years. The weather pattern over this period was very favourable, however, and so we saw very even and consistent flowering and fruit set was excellent. In anticipation of a cool vintage Chris decided early on to do lots of additional work in the vineyard, which really paid off when the summer months that followed proved to be unusually cool and saw above average levels of rainfall. Throughout spring he had thinned out the crowns in order to open up the canopies and promote airflow, and the red varieties were all heavily leaf plucked around the bunches to give the fruit ample sun light exposure in order to ensure full phenolic ripeness was achieved even in this cool vintage. There's no denying it was a long and arduous vintage this year, it was actually the latest on record for us. But the results more than justify the effort, and the fact that several of our hand pickers commented on our fruit being the cleanest they had picked this season is testament to the effectiveness of Chris' hands-on approach to managing our little vineyard.