Why Petit Verdot?

“Petit Verdot is extremely responsive to Matchbook’s soil type and growing conditions. Remarkably, the wines can appear to be depleted yet the fruit is flavorful with intense dark color making it both a fun and challenging grape to farm.”
— Greg Giguiere, Director of Vineyard Operations

• Thought to be one of the first varieties originally planted in Bordeaux by the ancient Romans
• It is one of Bordeaux’s classic varietals but gradually fell out of favor due to difficulty in obtaining ripeness in a short growing season; hence the name Petit Verdot: “little green one”
• Shows its true potential in warm regions with long growing seasons on well-drained, gravel-based soils found in the Dunnigan Hills
• Petit Verdot on the Hanging Curtain trellis system in the Matchbook Vineyard produces small clusters of tiny berries that intensify flavors and the deep, dark color
• The grape has a thick skin and a natural acidity which adds tannin, color, floral aromas, spicy flavors and a mineral finish

Why Petite Sirah?

“Petite Sirah requires a dry climate and some heat to fully ripen, making it a great match for the Dunnigan Hills. It retains tons of acid and has a long ripening life allowing excellent hang time well into the fall. This allows for wines with great age ability.”
— Greg Giguiere, Director of Vineyard Operations

• Unique as a stand-alone varietal, Petite Sirah is important world-wide in warm growing regions because of its need for some heat and a dry climate to ripen fully
• Created by botanist Francois Durif in Montpellier, France around 1880 by crossing Syrah and Peloursin and named after himself
• Imported into California by Charles McIver in the mid-1880s and renamed Petite Sirah
• Arguably one of two California heritage varietals along with Zinfandel. Thrives in Dunnigan Hills climate — P.S. We Love You
• Valued for its tannins, good acidity, deep color and distinctive flavor
• Appealing flavors and aromas of sugar plum, blueberry, violets, dark chocolate, black pepper and black tea
• Oak aging layers in flavors of hazelnut, vanilla and mocha

“Petit Verdot could be Dunnigan Hills’s best varietal. Yes, it has firm tannins and gives great structure to wines, but ours also shows beautiful aromas of violet and great fruit expression of blueberries. Depth, structure, aroma and flavor; this wine has it all.”
— Dan Cederquist, Head Winemaker

“Petit Verdot is valued for yielding concentrated, full-bodied wines that are age-worthy
• Extended barrel aging (24 months) softens the varietal’s rugged tannins while enhancing the dense flavors of plum, violets, mocha and the appealing fruit sweetness

“Our Pets are incredibly rich and flavorful. They have power, force and great intensity.”
— Dan Cederquist, Head Winemaker