

BUCKLIN

PETITE SIRAH

VINTAGE 2009 • SONOMA VALLEY

OLD HILL RANCH VINEYARD

ALC. 14.6% BY VOL.

For some reason that remains a mystery, this little block of Petite Sirah vines that we planted in 1999, produced little tiny grapes of unusual concentration. Usually blended into our Bambino, our curiosity got the better of us and we decided to keep two barrels separate, and yes, the wine is not for the faint of heart!



About Bucklin:

Bucklin winery was founded in 2000 by the four Bucklin siblings, Arden, Kate, Ted and Will. Bucklin only produces wine from grapes they grow on their family vineyard - Old Hill Ranch. The viticulture and winemaking are managed by Will Bucklin and the annual production is 1,800 cases.

Established in 1852 near the town of Glen Ellen, Old Hill Ranch is one of California's oldest vineyards. Our Petite Sirah comes from a one-acre portion of the 10-acre Bambino block we planted on Old Hill in 1998. 2009 marks the first vintage we held back a portion of this block to make Petite Sirah.

The 2009 bud-break started about one week earlier than average. The summer was mild except for a weekend heat spell on August 20th. We were very fortunate that the vines held up through the heat, and we didn't start harvesting until one month later. Given the early bud-break and the late harvest it was one of the longest growing seasons we have seen. The end of the harvest was punctuated by an unusually wet storm in mid-October but we had already finished harvesting all our grapes.

We harvested the Petite Sirah Sept. 29th and the Mixed Blacks on Oct. 10th. The grapes were fermented in bins and fermentations were relatively cool and long, a result of using indigenous yeast and harvesting the fruit ripe. Pressing occurred after 12 days on the skins. The wine was bottled January 2011 after 15 months aging in older French oak barrels. Winemaking techniques were gentle utilizing minimal sulfites and no filtrations.

Our 2009 Petite Sirah is very dark purple in color and intense in aromas. The fruit component is jammy with blueberry and plum aromas. The spice tend towards anise and black pepper. The flavors are rich with plums, blueberries, and licorice. The tannins are very big and the wine will benefit from age!

VINEYARD; *Old Hill Ranch - certified organic*

VINTAGE; 2009 **HARVEST DATE;** *Sept. 29th and Oct. 10th*

TONS / ACRE 3.5

BLEND; *78% Bambino Petite Sirah, 22% ancient vine Mixed Blacks*

AVERAGE HARVEST BRIX; 26.5°

HARVEST TA; 0.41 **HARVEST PH;** 3.47

VINIFICATION; *Indigenous yeast, aged 16 months used French Oak*

ADDITIONS: *9% H₂O, 0.8 g/l tartaric acid, sulfites.*

BOTTLING DATE; *Jan 13th 2011*

BOTTLING TA; 0.56 **BOTTLING PH ;** 3.77

ALCOHOL; 14.6%. **WINEMEAKER;** *Will Bucklin* **CASES PRODUCED;** 72

RETAIL PRICE; \$28

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