

2022 Palisades Vineyard Petite Sirah Calistoga, Napa Valley



Domenico Barberis sure knew great potential when he saw it. The young immigrant was from the same village in Italy, Murialdo, as Bob Biale's grandmother–Nonna Cristina Biale. Barberis came to Calistoga in 1902 and soon thereafter was able to start a vineyard and ranch with his large family at the scenic Horns Creek property. The Palisades Vineyard owners now are Felicia Woytak and Steve Rasmussen, who take great pride as stewards of this historic landmark.

This eastern side of Calistoga features the spectacular geological formation named the Palisades. These dramatic westfacing cliffs are composed of igneous rock and were formed from volcanic upheaval millennia ago. The geological formation stretches for over two miles and reaches elevations at over 3000 ft. It's no wonder the farmland below is perfectly suited for wine grapes. An active creek bed, stone, gravel, and well-drained soil, not to mention extended sunlight, are ideal conditions for ripening grapes for red wines.

Vintage Notes: The rainy season started off hopefully with several storms bringing much needed precipitation at the end of 2021. Dry conditions, however, returned in January with minimal rainfall through budbreak in mid-March. Cooler, breezy days during flowering in May caused minor shatter in some early flowering blocks, naturally limiting yield. In June a well-timed ¹/₂ inch of rain provided the vines with a much-needed drink. Idyllic growing and ripening conditions persisted through the summer. Moderate heat in the middle of August jump started an early harvest. Picking accelerated ahead of a five-day heat spike that began the first week of September, nearly driving harvest to completion. Harvest at Biale concluded exactly a month after it began, just before an early autumn rain. Concentrated and dense with delicate acidity, the 2022 vintage delivered stunning quality across the board.

Harvest Dates: September 9th

Winemaking: Our winemaking begins in the vineyard with meticulous attention to detail and close monitoring by Bob Biale and winemaker David Natali. Fruit is hand-harvested, sorted in the field, and sorted again at the winery. Destemmed, the grapes are then fermented in open top tanks with punch downs gently carried out two to three times per day. Pressed, the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation in 100% French oak barrels, of which 30% is new. Aged for 16 months in barrel.

Alcohol: 14.9%

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: An inviting nose filled with aromas of plum, lavender, black cherry, violets, and cardamom. Rich and broad on the palette with flavors of blackberry, cherry wood, wet slate, and dark chocolate. Long and persistent on the finish with well integrated and finely-tuned tannins.

Only 315 cases produced.