



The Vineyard: Oles Vineyard, located in the heart of St. Helena, lies just adjacent to the Old Vines at Korte Ranch where the Eastern and Western hillsides meet. Here, Russ Oles, part grower, part Napa Valley historian, farms unique clones of Petite Sirah with a tough love approach. His idea in his words is to “put ‘em in the ground, strap ‘em to a wooden stake and only the strong survive.” The majority of his head pruned Petite Sirah bush vines are 20 years old and extremely low yielding. The “Ghost Clones.” referred to on our label are his selection of cuttings from extremely old vine plantings he took to plant his vineyard. The Draper Clone of Petite came from one of the oldest vineyard sites on Spring Mountain and has since been pulled out. The other phantom clone came from the ancient vines at Rattlesnake Acres in Calistoga, one of California’s most celebrated Petite Sirah sites. The origins of these clones of Petite are long gone or strongly guarded family secrets and they produce some amazingly complex Petite Sirah.

Winemaking: The Petite Sirah grapes from Oles Vineyard are so unique and distinctively flavored, that our job in stewarding the grapes to wine is to capture that very essence with as minimal and gentle handling as possible. The grapes were hand picked in the early morning. We gently de-stemmed the fruit, sorted and gravity fed the grapes into French Oak Puncheons for cold soak and primary fermentation using only native yeasts. The Puncheons were rolled three times a day for approximately three weeks after which the wine was pressed into French and American Oak Barrels, 30% new, for malo-lactic fermentation and aging. The wine aged on its lees in barrel for 24 months and was racked and bottled unfiltered.

The Wine: Displays an incredibly dark, opaque, purple color with a deep complex nose to match. The wine features a signature Bramble-Berry fruit, blueberry jam, blackberries framed by hints of vanilla, caramel, pepper, savory spice and toast. Intensely flavored, showing full body and a rich texture with an acid balance to match, which carries the wine from the mid palate through the strong finish. Dusty, powdery tannins on the finish provide structure without being overpowering. (112 cases produced)

