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BUCKO'S NEW RELEASES
BY RANDY BUCKNER

Late Autumn 2005 Releases

You'll notice a plethora of Petite Sirah wines this month. Petite Sirah has been shrouded in mystery, further complicated by statements from noted wine writers such as Jancis Robinson. In her book *Vines, Grapes and Wines*, Robinson states, "The mystery about Petite Sirah is how it got its name. There is nothing particularly petite about it, and it has no connection whatsoever with the noble Syrah of the Rhône valley ..."

Through the efforts of Dr. Carole Meredith, Professor Emeritus, Department of Viticulture and Enology, University of California and her colleagues, DNA profiling has revealed the true lineage of Petite Sirah.

We now know Petite Sirah is the result of cross-pollination between Peloursin (an obscure variety found in the South of France) and Syrah, one of the world's great red grapes.



88

2002 Marr, Petite Sirah, Tehama Foothills, This wine has a nice sense of balance. Aromas of berries, smoke, warm spices and oak morph into flavors of cherry fruit, smoky notes and plummy undertones. Delightful.

88

2001 Marr, Petite Sirah, Cuvée Patrick, Sporting a deep ruby color, the aromas are a pleasing blend of raspberries, strawberry preserves, vanilla and a dash of herbs. The wine delivers pretty good bang for the buck. It is ready to drink right now with your favorite grilled foods.

