



Petit Verdot Session

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Petit Verdot

Origin: Bordeaux France or SW
France
Synonyms: Carmelin, variations on
Verdot (e.g., Verdau), but not to
be confused with Gros Verdot
Distribution: Limited acreage in
regions where other Bordeaux
reds have performed well (e.g.,
US, South Africa, Australia)
Clones: FPS #1 and #2; ENTAV-
INRA® 400 and 1058

Petit Verdot (*small green*)

Characteristics:

- Late or incomplete ripening in cool sites; occasionally small, persistently green berries in cluster
- Adds color, acidity, tannin, alcohol, spicy flavors and fragrance to Bordeaux blends (historically, Médoc and St. Emilion)
- Inconsistent yields (historically, FPS # 1), but can be extremely fertile (4 bunches per shoot)
- Vigorous, trailing shoots, tendency for breakage; variable training recommendations
- Susceptible to black rot, the mildews and phomopsis, but relatively resistant to bunch rots, including botrytis

Origins in Virginia

- Wolf obtained budwood from NYS Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, NY in 1987 (uncertain clone); evaluated at Winchester from 1988 – 1998 and at Blackstone VA (FPS #2) from 2000 to present.
- More than 20 grape producers in Virginia in 2007; however, the acreage does not make VA Ag Statistics Service ranking as a stand-alone variety.

Petit Verdot (Winchester)

- ◆ Consistent yields (5.1 t/a at Winchester)
- ◆ Greater cold hardiness than Cabernet Sauvignon
- ◆ Generally high quality fruit, little rot
- ◆ High acidity and pH in some years



Phenology (Winchester VA)

-Some frost avoidance: bud-break averaged 6 days later than Chardonnay (ranged from 0 to 6 days later - around 23 April)

-Harvest date was similar to Cab. Sauvignon – around 15 October (1993-1998)

	Bud-break to bloom (days)	Bloom to harvest (days)	Bud-break to harvest (days)
Tannat	53	114	167
Cab. Sauvignon #8	49	124	173
Petit Verdot	47	130	177



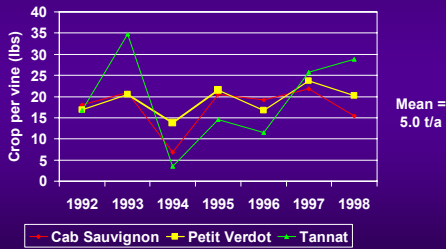
Petit Verdot

Winchester, 1991 – 1998 averages

	Rot severity (%)	Berry wt. (g)	Cluster wt. (lbs)	Brix	pH	TA (g/L)
Cab. Sauvig. #8	0.1	1.5	0.28	21.3	3.68	5.3
Petit Verdot	0.4	1.3	0.24	23.8	3.61	6.7
Tannat	1.2	1.8	0.58	22.8	3.61	8.3
Syrah	1.4	1.8	0.40	21.5	3.99	5.2



Crop per vine: 1993 – 1998 Winchester





Petit Verdot vs. Cab. Sauvignon #337

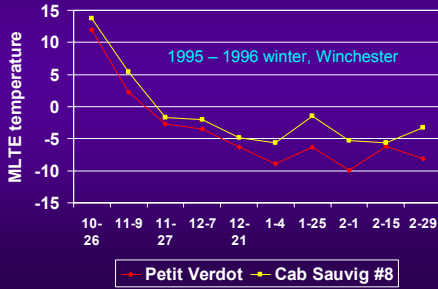
Blackstone, VA 2005 - 2007

	Brix	pH	TA	Berry wt. (g)
P. Verdot '05	21.7	3.92	5.26	1.20
P. Verdot '06	20.3	3.65	6.43	1.83
P. Verdot '07	23.5	4.04	4.86	1.22
Cab Sauvig. 337 '05	20.3	3.74	5.42	1.14
Cab Sauvig. 337 '06	18.8	3.72	6.29	1.77
Cab Sauvig. 337 '07	22.1	3.67	5.19	1.37



Petit Verdot: Winter cold hardiness

Petit Verdot suffered 95% primary bud kill when exposed to -11F on 19 January 1994. That translated to a 33% lower (than average) crop yield.





Summary

- ◆ Was “one of more promising red varieties” evaluated in our original variety planting.
- ◆ Blending or possible varietal wines
- ◆ Avoid at sites subject to early fall frosts
- ◆ Adaptable to either high or mid-wire training
- ◆ Some crop control might be necessary with FPS #2 and ENTAV-INRA® 400 clones
