

Codename:

The Mouth Pleaser

Today's **William Gordon Winery 2010 Alexander Valley Petite Sirah** posed a bit of a challenge for us at first glance. After tasting a great many highly rated wines, that **99 Point** score set some pretty lofty expectations. Could this Petite Sirah possibly live up to the hype? To put it simply: this was one of the *most delicious* wines we've tasted in quite some time.

Today's wine marks a return for William Gordon Winery. We featured their **2009 Cabernet Sauvignon** last month, and our Operatives just couldn't get enough. We have a feeling that after tasting today's Petite Sirah, **this** might be the wine everyone lusts over. Dripping with layer upon layer of lush, complex flavors, this is a wine to savor.

Combine this amazing wine with a budget friendly price, and you've got an absolute winner. If you're anything like us, this is a wine to stock up on!



Tasting Profile

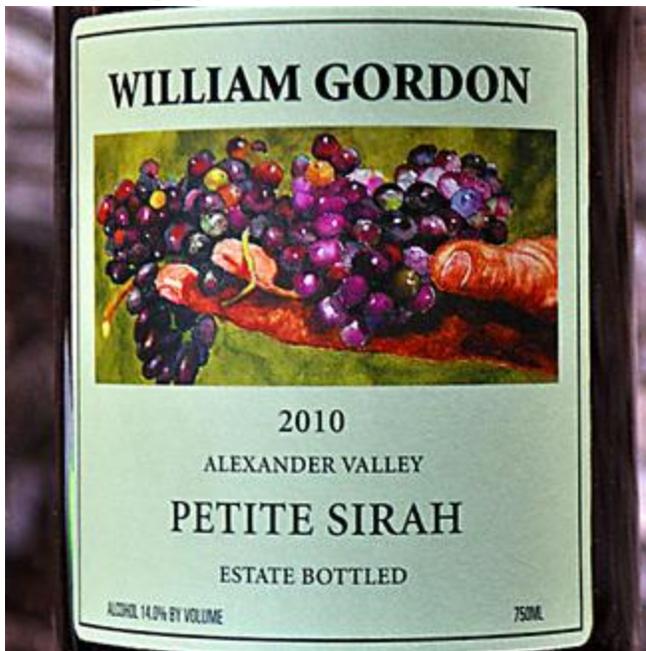
Look: Deep and impossibly inky violet, with just a hint of a lighter red at the very edge of the glass.

Smell: Lush and aromatic, with bold notes of stewed plum and blackberry, trailed by clove, nutmeg, tobacco leaf, black peppercorn, and smoky, almost burned caramel.

Taste: Robust and extremely concentrated flavors of reduced black cherry, boysenberry, and black plum lead the way. These flavors mingle with stewed rhubarb, fresh berry bramble, smoky oak spice, rose petal, and a subtle hint of dill.

Finish: Deep and incredibly complex, this is a wine to savor. The finish is supple and smooth, with a touch of white pepper remaining after the dark fruit slowly fades away.

Pairing: A ginger encrusted salmon filet, served with caramelized onions.



What the Winery Says

The 2010 Estate Petite Sirah is more refined than our 2009, with a lower alcohol and a more integrated palate. Inky deep violet in color, there are complex dark fruit aromas. There is a balanced restraint to the acidity, tannins, and oak from this full bodied wine on the palate. The blackberry flavors take center stage to soft toast and spicy flavors of the American Oak.

99 Point Score - Master Somm Catherine Fallis With notes of blueberry, blackberry, cherry and raspberry jam, vanilla bean, mocha, savory cumin, earthy white pepper, spicy black pepper, cedar, and damp forest floor, this complex red is enticing and a bit mysterious. Fruit and earth components play off one another on the palate as well, which is beautifully balanced and lively with fine tannins, juicy acidity and a long, darkly fruity and very slightly chewy finish. Serve with Steak au Poivre or a simple grilled flank steak.

Winemakers Gordon Drake, Bill Pesonen

Accolades 99 Points - Master Sommelier Catherine Fallis

Appellation Alexander Valley, Sonoma County, California

Vineyard Viña de Las Peñas Vineyard

Cooperage 22 months in American oak

ABV 14.0%

