

## 2007 MAROON PETIT VERDOT

<b>RELEASE DATE</b>	May 2009
<b>PRODUCTION</b>	122 cases
<b>APPELLATION</b>	100% St. Helena
<b>BLEND</b>	100% Petit Verdot
<b>AGING</b>	18 months in 60% New French Oak

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Petit Verdot is a variety of the red wine grape, principally used in classic Bordeaux blends. It ripens much later than the other varieties in Bordeaux and is often lost to rains in its home region. It has, however, attracted the attention of California winemakers because the climate here allows the grapes to ripen more consistently. Producers often use it to 'stiffen' the mid palate of Cabernet Sauvignon blends creating a more Bordeaux style wine. It is also a Rising Star as a single varietal wine, producing a very dark, tannic and fragrant wine with rich eggplant color.

### *The Vines*

This 2006 Petit Verdot was grown in the St. Helena Appellation, not too far from the Napa River. The vineyard has been farmland as far back as the 1870's and is now maintained using sustainable and organic farming techniques. The St. Helena Appellation is an American Viticulture Area located within the Napa Valley, centered around the town of St. Helena. The vines in this 9,000 acre appellation are located along the flat narrow land at the northern end of the valley between the Vaca and Mayacamas Mountains.

### *The Wine*

This is Maroon's first vintage of Petit Verdot. We had originally set five barrels of this luscious wine aside to be used as a blending component in our Cabernet Sauvignon. Throughout the aging process, however, we realized the wine was pretty special on its own, showing spicy flavors and a rich texture with medium firm tannins. The wine was extremely well balanced, and we decided it should be bottled as a single varietal. The alcohol content is 14.8%. It is rich with dark berries and some spicy, floral aromas with hints of toasty oak and vanilla.

### *The Bottom Line*

This wine is spicy dark berry flavors - the tannins have a medium firm grip on the palate - the finish is medium long and rich. It pairs well with slow-roasted pork, spicy Thai dishes, jambalaya or a rich chocolate dessert. Drink now through 2013.