

2010 Pellegrini Vineyards Petit Verdot

The 2010 Petit Verdot also has a dollop (2%) of Merlot. Coming in at 13.5% alcohol, it was aged for 18 months in an 80/20 mixture of French and American oak (half new; the rest a mixture of second-use and older). You can smell this from a few feet away. For many, that will disqualify it right there and the style will make a score irrelevant. For lovers of the style, it has plenty of spinach and broccoli nuances. Far better on the mid-palate, it is a wine that has a certain leanness to it and serious astringency, but it still has better concentration than most of its competitors. Drying on the finish, it drinks much better with some aeration. At the moment, it is a bit easier to admire than truly like. I tend to lean up for structure, but this does have some things to prove in the cellar and you will have to realize that it is a bit on th...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

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2013 Pellegrini Vineyards Gewurztraminer

The 2013 Gewurztraminer is unoaked and comes in at 6.9 grams per liter of residual sugar—modestly elevated, which makes it essentially a table wine with a fruity finish. The winery says "2013 was an excellent growing season...with extended fall ripening..." It seems to work out here. Handling the aromatic part well (it wouldn't be Gewurz if that weren't right), this is pleasingly fruity and laid back. The mid-palate concentration is modest, but the wine goes down well and those aromatics are persistent. The personality is happily strong, but its mid-palate concentration will not reward long aging. Drink it young. There were 206 cases produced.

Note that there has been a relatively recent winemaking change here: Zander Hargrave took over winemaking duties from Tom Drozd in July, 2014. (Drozd moved to Florida.)

Importer(s):

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2010 Pellegrini Vineyards Cabernet Franc

The 2010 Cabernet Franc, sourced from vineyards planted in 1982 and 1998, will be released in September, 2015. It was aged for 20 months in a mixture of French (75%) and American (25%) oak, half new and the rest a mixture of second-use and older. This does have a dollop of Cabernet Sauvignon—6%. It comes in at 13% alcohol. Feeling full in the mouth on first taste, this is also caressing in texture on opening, but everything changes with aeration. First, you will have to be a Cab Franc fan, because this has strong vegetal notes in the background. It may come into better balance with a little time and I saw some evidence of that. Not particularly intense on opening, it then shows increasingly dry tannins on the finish and a certain brightness. Overall, it acquires a hard edge at times. It ultimately is only moderately concentrated, however...

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2010 Pellegrini Vineyards Chardonnay Vintner's Pride

The 2010 Chardonnay "Vintner's Pride" was aged in 500-liter French barrels for 18 months (half new; the rest a mixture of second-use and older). Sourced from vines planted between 1982 and 1988, this bottling is produced only in the best vintages. With a notable caramel overlay from oak on opening, this rises above that overlay quite well and quickly. Aging beautifully and still seeming fresh and vibrant, it is elegant in the mid-palate and beautifully balanced. The wine's acidity cuts nicely through the oak and eventually gives it a pointed and sharper feel, which some will prefer more than others. This is a nice performance in a gracefully maturing Chardonnay. It should continue to hold well for several years. After that, we'll see where we are when we get there. There were 245 cases produced.

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**2010 Pellegrini Vineyards Encore Vintner's
Pride**

The 2010 Encore Vintner's Pride is a Bordeaux blend (60% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Petit Verdot), aged for 20 months in French oak (half new, the rest a combination of second-use and older). It comes in at just 13% alcohol. Showing elegance in the mid-palate, this has a fair bit of power on the finish. The concentration level may not be entirely adequate to balance it out perfectly, but for the most part this drinks well in a middle-of-the-road fashion. Some hours later, the wine is still tight and astringent, but it is good to note that it had not particularly thinned. Produced only in the best vintages, there were 319 cases made.

Note that there has been a relatively recent winemaking change here: Zander Hargrave took over winemaking duties from Tom Drozd in July, 2014. (Drozd moved to Florida.)

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

2010 Pellegrini Vineyards Merlot

The 2010 Merlot was sourced from vines planted in 1982 and 1998 and released in April, 2015. It was aged for 20 months in an 80/20 mixture of French and American oak (half new; the rest a mixture of second-use and older). Drinking fairly nicely at the moment, it does prove on occasion, with some tannic bursts, that it has a real backbone. The concentration level is not high, frankly, and after some 90 minutes of aeration it seems fairly flat and routine. That constrained my initial, more enthusiastic view. More happily, at least early on, it has an earthy and attractive complexity to the finish. Elegant and showing some finesse, it really will need some food to show its best. Granting some limitations here, it still has its moments and mostly drinks well. The price point is not that high, either, as these things go. There were 404 cases ...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)