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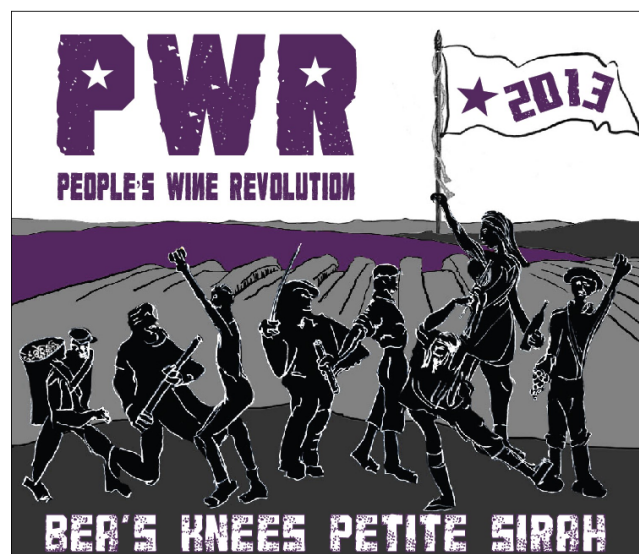
2013 Bea's Knees Petite Sirah
Oberti Vineyard, Suisun Valley, California

Our 2013 “Bea's Knees” is 100% Petite Sirah from the Oberti Vineyard in Suisun Valley, farmed with minimal inputs by Gary Mangels. We first encountered the fruit from this vineyard when we worked for another winery that bought it for a special program. When that program ended, we leaped at the chance to buy the grapes, well aware of their quality.

Suisun Valley is a little known AVA only a few miles southeast of Napa Valley. Entering the valley is like stepping back in time. In this bucolic setting it is difficult to imagine that Interstate 80 is so close you can almost hear it. The valley is generally warm but it is so close to the San Pablo Bay and Carquinez Strait that it has a number of cooler microclimates. Suisun Valley can ripen almost everything—forget about Pinot Noir and Riesling, but just about anything else you can imagine does well here.

Petite Sirah thrives in Suisun Valley, and will probably emerge as its signature varietal. Everything we love about Petite Sirah is abundant in the Oberti Vineyard grapes—rich, densely concentrated flavors, intense color and tannins that are formidable but not forbidding.

We harvested 5.5 tons on September 24 at 25.4 Brix, pH 3.73 and 5.1 g/L titratable acidity. We pressed on October 10 and the wine matured in neutral French oak barrels. We bottled 283 cases in August, 2014, at 14.2 % alcohol, 5.5 g/L titratable acidity and a pH of 3.82.



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