

# 2012 A PROPER CLARET

## CALIFORNIA RED WINE

Some cautionary words: Bonny Doon Vineyard is, as we all know or should know, a strictly *cabernet*-free zone, at least it has been for the last twenty-eight years.<sup>1,2</sup> Randall Grahm, owner and winemaker, has expressed opprobrium, occasionally bordering on amused disdain, for this popular grape variety. We are not really at liberty to say how Bonny Doon Vineyard has come to be entrusted with the distribution of a wine made from such improbably alien grape varieties, but suffice to say that the deal was doon doggingly and harumphingly.

So, with these caveats, the sentiment at Bonny Doon Vineyard is that if we ever *were* to drink a cabernet-based blend, this would be one that would serve quite well. It is lean, neither overly alcoholic (weighing in at 13%), nor overly extracted; it is precisely as one would imagine A Proper Claret to be. The wine contains a substantial dollop of *petit verdot* (22%), which adds a silky note of violets and textural elegance, in precision counterpoint to the lead-in-the-pencil firmness offered by the inclusion of the manly *tannat* (8%). There is a lovely suggestion of cedar and mint, in the nose. The wine has medium tannins, nice acidity, and finishes cleanly.

Now, as to the label. What can we say? We are just scandalized, sputteringly unable to countenance the opportunistic wine marketeers who would stoop to using lurid imagery merely to sell a bottle of wine. Has it come to this? It is only because we enjoyed the wine so much that we are willing to put up with the tasteless monstrosity that is this label. "Proper"(!?) Claret. Indeed.

### FOOD PAIRINGS:

Proper (British) mutton, proper leg of lamb, (ideally served with proper Yorkshire pudding).

<sup>1</sup> This commonsensical dictum is as easy as A, B, C.

<sup>2</sup> The last "Claret" produced at Bonny Doon Vineyard was in 1985 from grapes grown at our late Estate in the eponymous hamlet of Bonny Doon. It was a blend of approximately equal parts of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cab. Franc, Merlot and Malbec, and against all expectation, it was actually pretty damn good.

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### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Varietal Blend:

62% cabernet sauvignon  
22% petit verdot  
8% tannat  
7% syrah  
1% petite sirah

Appellation: California

Alcohol by Volume: 13.2%

TA: 6.4 g/L

pH: 3.62

Production: 7,000 cases

### REGION



### WINEMAKER

?????

