



In 1983, Tony and Herta (HB) Peju purchased thirty acres of vines in the famed Rutherford district of Napa Valley. They worked hard to build a winery, plant estate vineyards and raise their family. PEJU remains family-owned with Tony and HB's two daughters Ariana and Lisa guiding the business today. Ariana and Lisa are bringing fresh ideas while maintaining the meticulous focus on quality that began 40 years ago. With its landmark tower and warm hospitality, PEJU Winery is an integral part of the Napa Valley landscape.

2021 THE BEGINNING, NAPA VALLEY

INSPIRATION

Created exclusively for our Club PEJU members, 'The Beginning' features Tony Peju on the label with "JR", a retired racehorse named after Johannisberg Riesling. In the 1980s, the Peju family had two horses, JR and Sonny, that they often rode along the Napa River and between the vineyards surrounding the winery in Rutherford.

VINTAGE

The 2021 vintage will be remembered for low yields with intensely-flavored, small-sized berries, and a smooth harvest season. The season started off with very little rain, leading to the 2nd year of drought conditions in Napa Valley. The drought of 2021 resulted in a more natural load on the vines, requiring less pruning and dropping of fruit. The resulting grapes were packed full of flavor.

TASTING

'The Beginning' is an intriguing blend of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon that unfolds like a captivating story in a glass. The wine begins with enticing notes of blueberry and delicate violet with a hint of a flinty characteristic, adding an intriguing dimension. Firm tannins provide structure to this layered wine, showcasing a solid fruit presence that harmonizes beautifully with its gritty texture. 'The Beginning' strikes a remarkable balance between its elements, leaving a lasting impression of depth and sophistication.

DETAILS

- Appellation:** Napa Valley
- Composition:** 76% Petit Verdot, 24% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Oak:** French, 40% new
- Aging:** 18 months
- Harvest:** October 2021
- Release:** September 2023
- Winemaker:** Sara Fowler
- Alcohol:** 14.5%

ACCOLADES

92 points, James Suckling

