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Raise Your Glass: Racy Label Can't Obscure a Great Wine

By Warren Johnston

CYCLES GLADIATOR

Petite Sirah, 2015, Central Coast, California, \$13.99

When it comes to wine labels, I'm pretty conservative.

I'm attracted to the clean, straightforward look, labels with clear type sporting a crest or a drawing of the chateau. I tend to avoid wines selling themselves with cute names, overweight circular crests, or anything that might distract from the wine's quality or my own experience, often with a wine I've never tried.

However, I brot arrived on the 19th-century po a bicycle.

My confidence on the label. He and skills only to finely made wines.

I wasn't disappointed. Cycles Gladiator Petite Sirah is a very good wine with complex flavors and aromas of blueberries and black fruit, which LaZarre describes in fanciful tasting notes. The tannins that will stay with you.

I'm not sure great for sip Manchego.

Cycles Gladiator vineyards in entire process before bottling.

"My confidence in the bottle's contents was raised by seeing Adam LaZarre's signature on the label. He's one of California's best, the kind of winemaker who lends his name and skills only to finely made wines."

"Cycles Gladiator Petite Sirah and the four other exceptional varietal wines under the label are widely available, and I found all of them recently for \$11.99. They all live up to LaZarre's philosophy and taste like they are worth two or three times the price."



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