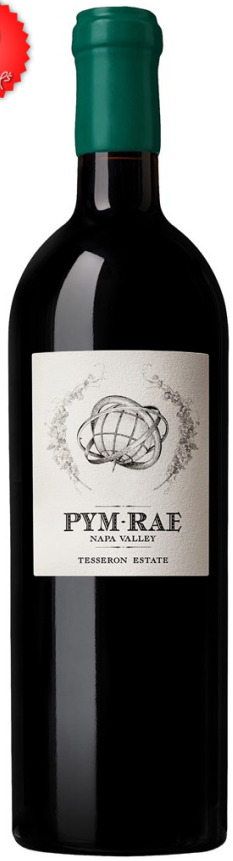
Tesseron Estate

A Bordeaux-inspired blend, Pym-Rae 2018 combines the power of Cabernet Sauvignon , Cabernet Franc , and Merlot , showcasing the elegance and depth of Napa Valley's high-altitude vineyards.

PYM-RAE
NAPA VALLEY

99



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc

Pym-Rae 2018

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Pym-Rae is sourced from a single vineyard on Mount Veeder in Napa Valley, perched at altitudes between **1640 and 1968 feet**, with blocks positioned at various elevations. The vineyard spans **32 acres** of sedimentary soils rich in **sandstone and clay**, ideal for producing wines of depth and complexity.

The **2018 growing season** began with a rainy winter and moderate spring sunlight, leading to a slightly late bud break and flowering. The summer brought warm days and cool nights, with the oceanic influence ensuring a slow, even ripening. These conditions resulted in exceptional fruit balance and aromatic complexity.

Winemaking

The handpicked grapes were sorted manually, with gentle destemming and processing by gravity. Fermentation occurred in **round concrete tanks (264 gallons)** to promote a natural and delicate extraction of flavors.

Aging lasted **16 to 18 months**, with **70% in new French oak barrels** to enhance structure and complexity, and **30% in concrete tanks** to preserve fruit purity and freshness. The balance between oak and concrete aging adds richness and a vibrant character to the wine.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep garnet with purple highlights.
- **Aroma**: Intense and precise, with notes of **blackberries**, **blueberries**, and **dark cherries**, complemented by hints of **cedar**, **graphite**, and a touch of **floral perfume**.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied yet elegant, with **silky tannins** and a lively acidity. Flavors of **ripe dark fruits**, **mocha**, and **earthy spices** unfold beautifully, leading to a persistent, harmonious finish.

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Pym-Rae 2018

Did You Know?

The name **Pym-Rae** pays tribute to the estate's previous owner, actor Robin Williams, and the vineyard's original name. The 2018 vintage benefited from **organic and biodynamic farming** certified by Demeter USA, reflecting the Tesseron Family's commitment to sustainable viticulture.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Entrecôte Grillée avec Sauce Bordelaise**: The wine's tannins and richness pair beautifully with the savory, umami flavors of the steak and sauce.
- **Magret de Canard aux Cerises**: The dark fruit and acidity complement the richness of the duck and the sweetness of the cherries.
- **Cassoulet de Toulouse**: The structured tannins and depth of the wine balance the dish's hearty textures and flavors.
- **Beaufort Affiné**: The wine's elegance and fruitiness enhance the nutty, complex profile of this Alpine cheese.

99

Robert Parker (RP) : 99 Points (2018)

The 2018 Pym-Rae reveals a deep garnet-purple color and a slightly reticent, slowly emerging nose of freshly crushed blackcurrants, ripe blackberries and wild blueberries with suggestions of garrigue, red currant jelly, mossy tree bark and truffles plus wafts of bouquet garni and Sichuan pepper. The palate is full-bodied and fantastically concentrated with tightly wound layers of black and red berry notions, framed by very firm yet beautifully ripe tannins and amazing tension, finishing with epic length and loads of mineral sparks.

97 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2017)

Rather rich, flamboyant and decadent with bright raspberries, mushrooms and bark. Full-bodied, yet very tight and refined, with firmness and length. Racy and fine for a 2017. No cabernet franc in the blend, just cabernet sauvignon and merlot. Drink after 2023.

96 JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 96 Points (2016)

The 2016 Pym-Rae comes from an estate on Mount Veeder and is 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, all aged in 70% new French oak and the balance in concrete vats. The first vintage for this cuvée, it's named after the original estate owner's children, Pym and Rae, which were their middle names. The 2016 is a beautiful wine and has a unique, rich, meaty character as well as lots of dark fruits, mountain scrub brush, tobacco, and leather that develops nicely with time in the glass, showing more and more fruit and purity with air. Full-bodied, nicely concentrated, and textured, it has a mass of tannins, beautiful mid-palate depth, and a solid spine of acidity that keeps it lively and fresh. It offers pleasure today yet is going to benefit from 5-7 years in the cellar. My money is on it evolving for 25-30 years. Rating: 96+