Petite Sirah perseveres

2014 Miro Petite Sirah Coyote Ridge Vineyard
Crafted by talented winemaker Miro Tcholakov who also makes the wines at Trentadue, this blockbuster 2014 Petite Sirah is a big brawny wine with a long life ahead of it. It smells like you just buried your face into a variety of styles, it is characterized by inky, black color, a brooding, blackberry, earthy nose, huge body on the palate and full, firm tannins on the finish. It is the perfect wine to go with “manly” roasted meats or game. Many Petite Sirahs can age 20 years or more.

2014 Pedroncelli Petite Sirah Coyote Ridge Vineyard
This dark, brooding monster from Lodi is not for the faint of heart. It smells like you just buried you face into a variety of styles, it is characterized by inky, black color, a brooding, blackberry, earthy nose, huge body on the palate and full, firm tannins on the finish. It is the perfect wine to go with “manly” roasted meats or game. Many Petite Sirahs can age 20 years or more.

2014 Perle Petite Sirah
This light, fresh, and easy Petite Sirah from Lodi is a perfect choice for a warm summer day. It is light on the palate with a clean finish, making it a great option for a picnic or a casual meal.

2014 Deiner-Handal Petite Sirah
“Petite Sirah is the Rodney Dangerfield of grapes; It’s been around forever, but it never gets any respect.”

By Pierre DuMont

Planning Your Finances Overcoming roadblocks to a comfortable retirement

By TJ Stevko

In your life, you will want to take many trips. Some are physical – perhaps you’ll finally visit the French Riviera or the Caribbean. Others involve personal growth – one day, you’ll finally become fluent in that foreign language you’ve been studying. But of all the destinations you can identify, few will be as important as retirement – specifically, a comfortable retirement. That’s why it’s so important to consider the “roadblocks” you might encounter on your road to the retirement lifestyle you’ve envisioned.

Here are five of the most common obstacles:

1. Insufficient investments
Very few of us have ever reported investing “too much” for their retirement. But a great many people regret that they saved and invested too little. Don’t make that mistake. Contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, and increase your contributions whenever your salary goes up. Even if you do participate in your retirement plan at work, you may also be eligible to fund an IRA, so take advantage of that opportunity, too. And always look for other ways to cut expenses and direct this “found” money toward your retirement.

2. Underestimating your longevity
You can’t predict how long you’ll live, but you can make some reasonable guesses – and you might be surprised at your prospects. According to the Social Security Administration, men reaching age 65 today can expect to live, on average, until age 84, while women turning age 65 today can anticipate living, on average, until age 86. That’s a lot of years – and you’ll need to plan for them when you create long-term saving, investing and spending strategies.

3. Not establishing a suitable withdrawal rate
Once you are retired, you will likely need to start withdrawing money from your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts. It’s essential that you don’t withdraw too much each year – obviously, you don’t want to run out of funds after exhausting your resources. That’s why you need to establish an annual withdrawal rate that’s appropriate for your situation, incorporating variables such as your age, the value of your retirement accounts, your estimated lifestyle expenses, and so on. Calculating such a withdrawal rate can be challenging, so you may want to consult with a professional financial advisor.

4. Taking Social Security at the wrong time
You can start taking Social Security as early as age 62, but your checks will be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will probably be 66 or 67, or when your pay means “maxes” at 30. You might want to consider not being able to work for a while, but in postponing the date you begin taking withdrawals, you could help yourself considerably.

5. Ignoring inflation
It’s been low in recent years, but inflation hasn’t disappeared, and it could rise at exactly the wrong time – when you’re retired. That’s why you’ll want your portfolio to include some investments with the potential to outpace inflation, even during your retirement years.

By being aware of these roadblocks, and taking steps to overcome them, you can help smooth your journey toward retirement. Once you get there, you may enjoy it more.

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Wednesday, February 1, 2017

2014 Vina Robles Petite Sirah
Vina Robles is one of the shining lights of the Paso Robles region producing a wide array of outstanding wines. Their Petite Sirah is one of my favorites. An opaque purple-colored wine with a forceful peppery, cassis-scented nose, and thick, dense full-bodied flavors, coating with extract and glycerin. With a
**For Troop 11 Scouts, it’s snow time**

Troop 11 Boy Scouts Dash Patterson (left), Ryan Parkhurst, Nathan Barge, Ryan Ross, Sam Reynolds, Tommy McNeil, Billy McNeil and Jake Alering on a ski trip to Hoyfjellet Lodge at Soda Springs.

Troop 11 Boy Scouts Ethan Alering (left), Billy McNeil, Alex Gotta, Ryan Parkhurst, Nathan Barge, and Jake Alering, play Charades at the Hoyfjellet Lodge in Soda Springs.

Piedmont Boy Scouts from Troop 11 headed to the mountains the weekend of January 27-29 for their annual ski trip. They stayed at the Hoyfjellet Lodge in Soda Springs on Friday and Saturday nights, working on their Snow Sports Merit Badge by day while skiing at Sugar Bowl in the bountiful, fresh powder.

**Wine**

Continued from page 23

sweet, long, lavishly rich finish, this wine should drink beautifully for 10-15 years. www.cinvarobles.com

* 2014 Michael David Petite Petit (GREAT VALUE) 
  This is a blend of Petite Sirah and Petite Verdot, hence the name. It is far from a small wine. It is bursting with boysenberry and cassis flavors that create a joyous explosion in the mouth. The tannins are soft and approachable and the finish is rich and fulfilling. On top of it all, the $18 retail price makes this a great deal. www.michaeldavidwinery.com

* 2008 Silkwood Petite Sirah “My Way” 
  I ran into this wine many years ago and I am glad to see that they are still producing fabulous wines from the unheralded Modesto area of the Central Valley. John Momich has crafted the biggest Petite of the tasting. The nose is reticent at first, but hints at black pepper and currants. The body is massive with monstrous size portions of berry fruit, oak, and tannins. This wine should be put away for five years and will last at least 20 years. www.silkwoodwines.com

* 2012 Tres Sabores Petite Sirah
  This comes from a Calistoga-based winery that I have never tried before. The color is an opaque black/purple, and the nose offers up licorice, pepper, and cassis aromas. It is thick, juicy, and full-bodied on the palate, with a lush, opulent finish. The body is massive with monstrous size portions of berry fruit, oak, and tannins. This wine should be put away for five years and will last at least 20 years. www.tresbazaar.com

* 2014 Ballentine Petite Sirah Pocal Vineyard
  This small family-run Calistoga winery has been a very consistent producer of fine Petite Sirahs, and this wine continues the tradition. Dark brick color, huge sweet vanilla/oak nose, perfect structure and balance between acid and fruit. Firm tannins and a long finish. It needs 10 more years to achieve maturity, but is a tour du force. www.ballentinevineyards.com

* 2014 Kokomo Petite Sirah 
  Healdsburg based Kokomo sourced these grapes from two vineyards in Dry Creek Valley and then aged the wine in 30% new oak. This Berkeley-based producer has blended in Mourvedre and Merlot to give added complexity to the wine. Inky black color, huge sweet vanilla nose, loads of fruit on the mid-palate with just the right amount of tannin on the finish. This is a great wine in support of a great cause. www.justicegrace.com

* 2014 Ballentine Petite Sirah 
  Healdsburg based Kokomo sourced these grapes from two vineyards in Dry Creek Valley and then aged the wine in 30% new oak. This Berkeley-based producer has blended in Mourvedre and Merlot to give added complexity to the wine. Inky black color, huge sweet vanilla nose, loads of fruit on the mid-palate with just the right amount of tannin on the finish. This is a great wine in support of a great cause. www.justicegrace.com

* 2014 Kokomo Petite Sirah 
  Healdsburg based Kokomo sourced these grapes from two vineyards in Dry Creek Valley and then aged the wine in 30% new oak. Dark purple color, straight-forward blackberry nose with just a touch of oak, full luscious fruit on the palate with a soft finish. A fruit bomb! Great with grilled steaks or pork chops. www.kokomowinery.com

In addition, it is readily available at most Safeway stores. For $10 it’s hard to find a better bottle of wine. It is a bit lighter in body than most Petite Sirahs but is packed with jammy fruit of plums and blueberries and has a clean refreshing finish. It’s a perfect wine for a picnic or BBQ.

**Justice Grace 10 ShooShine Petite Sirah NV**

This wine is dedicated to those who work for justice and grace in the workplace and toward a living wage for all. A good cause to support. This Berkeley-based producer has blended in Mourvedre and Merlot to give added complexity to the wine. Inky black color, huge sweet vanilla/oak nose, loads of fruit on the mid-palate with just the right amount of tannin on the finish. This is a great wine in support of a great cause. www.justicegrace.com