

ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

2014 CYRUS

In 1840 Alexander Valley namesake Cyrus Alexander rode into our valley and called it the "brightest and best spot in the world". He chose this spot to build his home and raise his family, and many years later we would do the same. This wine is our tribute to the man, the region and the very best of the vintage.

In 1995 Hank Wetzel produced the first vintage of CYRUS, today winemaker Kevin Hall carries on the tradition with our 20th release of CYRUS. He has selected nine distinctive lots of estate Bordeaux grapes for this vintage, anchoring the blend with three complex lots of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Varietal	Lots	Aging	Aromatics	Traits
Cabernet Sauvignon	3	French & American oak	Chocolate, spice, dark fruits	Dark fruits, big tannins
Cabernet Franc	2	French oak	Floral & dark fruit	Dark chocolate cassis & vanilla
Merlot	2	French & American oak	Slightly floral	Fruit forward, dark fruits
Malbec	1	French oak	Floral & red fruit	Intense inky color, deep flavors
Petit Verdot	1	French oak	Blueberry & vanilla	Dark color, higher acidity

The 2014 growing season was very similar to 2013. The drought, combined with a mild winter and spring, caused an early bud break. However, the overall length of the growing season was similar to past years. The lack of rain did not impact our fruit due to moderate temperatures throughout the growing season and the grapes ripened evenly. While news of the drought dominated conversations, there was an upside, the grapes had rich, concentrated flavors, much like the 2013 vintage.

After harvest each lot was fermented and aged separately for 12 months, blended to showcase the vintage, then aged for an additional 12 months in French oak barrels to meld the flavors. Additional bottle aging resulted in a seamless blend. The 2014 has dark purple color and layered, earthy aromas of cassis, black cherry, chocolate, and cherry along with hints of toasty oak and vanilla. This is a silky wine with flavors of cassis, dark chocolate, dark fruits, dusty cherry, and a hint of cedar. The 2014 CYRUS boasts smooth texture, excellent balance and a long structured finish. As this wine sits in the glass it just keeps building on itself, hinting at the complexity that will occur with additional cellar aging.



Accolades: 2013: 90 points - *Wine Enthusiast* 2012: 93 points - *Wine Advocate*
 2011: 93 points - *Winemaker Challenge* 2010: 92 points - *Wine Enthusiast*
 2009: 91 points - *Wine Advocate* 2008: 92 points - *Wine Advocate*

Profile: • **Elegant, expressive** • **Aromatic, rich and concentrated**

About Alexander Valley Vineyards:

Over the last decade we have replanted our vineyards with reduced spacing resulting in more rows per acre and closer spacing per vine. On some sites we have more than doubled the plants in these high density vineyards. These tightly spaced vines produce around 10-12 pounds of grapes per vine. This low yield results in great complexity in the glass, while more vines per acre is one of the keys to great value in our bottles. So the next time you hear someone quoting tons per acre, be sure to ask them how many vines are producing that ton and compute the pounds per vine.

Technical Data:

Grapes: 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc, 17% Merlot, 2% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot
Harvest: September 4 - October 7, 2014
Closure: Cork
First Vintage: 1995
Alcohol: 14.3% **pH:** 3.6 **TA:** 7.1 g/L
UPC: 0-85798-11062-9 750ml



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