



2013 Estate Cabernet Franc

Alexander Valley Vineyards Estate Cabernet Franc is one of the few 100% Cabernet Franc's produced in California. Many think of Cabernet Franc as only a blending grape, and we do blend a small percentage into our Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and our premium blend CYRUS. Early on we quickly realized that our Cabernet Franc was exceptional on its own and started bottling a few cases of the 1996 vintage for the tasting room. Since that time the wine has been recognized as one of the top examples from California and most recently was named *Best of California* and *Best of Region* at the *California State Fair*.

"This wine gives wine lovers a chance to see what Cab Franc actually tastes like" says Winemaker Kevin Hall, "the varietal has a softer tannin profile than our Cabernet Sauvignon."

2013 was an almost perfect growing season and began with one of the driest springs on record. Throughout the summer we had a warm growing season and our Cabernet Franc grapes reached peak maturity about two weeks earlier than 2012. After harvest the grapes were fermented in our smaller tanks resulting in good extraction and concentrated flavors. Pumpovers occurred twice daily for two weeks and then the wine was aged in 100% French Oak barrels for sixteen months. The French oak adds nice tannin to mid palate, while the touch of vanilla and spice from the barrels complement the dark berry flavor.

The 2013 Cabernet Franc has aromas of black cherry, blueberry, vanilla and chocolate with flavors of plum, black cherry, vanilla, blueberry and cassis. This is a rich, lush wine with a nice balance of fruit and a structured finish.



Food Pairing: Classic with grilled meats, wild game and lamb. At home we like to pair this with lasagna and other meat ragus. Try it with Maytag Blue or Jasper Hill Blue cheese to end an evening.

- Prior Awards:**
- 2013: Double Gold Medal & Class Champion - International Wine Competition HLSR**
 - 2013: Double Gold Medal - Hilton Head Wine and Food Festival**
 - 2013: Silver Medal - Sunset International Wine Awards**
 - 2013: 89 points, Tried & True - Ultimate Beverage Challenge**

Profile:

- Dark fruits, vanilla & chocolate
- Rich texture & long finish

About Alexander Valley Vineyards:

Harry and Maggie Wetzel purchased the 600 acres that is home to AVV in 1962 from the heirs of valley namesake Cyrus Alexander. The Wetzel Family Estate stretches from the banks of the Russian River to the Mayacamas Mountains and today the 4th generation of the family calls it home. From the beginning the family has celebrated the unique place they call home by producing wines showcasing the terroir of the Alexander Valley.

Technical Data:

- Grapes:** Cabernet Franc 100%
- Harvest:** September 18 - October 1, 2013
- Barrel Aging:** 16 months French Oak, 25% new
- Closure:** cork
- First Vintage:** 1996
- Alcohol:** 14% **TA:** 6.1 g/L **ph:** 3.64
- SRP:** \$28 **Cases:** 1985
- UPC:** 0-85798-04962-2

