

ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

2015 Estate Cabernet Franc

Alexander Valley Vineyards Estate Cabernet Franc is one of the few 100% Cabernet Francs 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 consistently been recognized as one of the top examples from California.

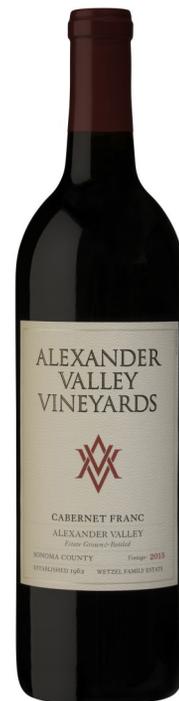
"This wine gives wine lovers a chance to see what Cab Franc actually tastes like" says Winemaker Kevin Hall, "The varietal has a softer tannin profile than our Cabernet Sauvignon."

The western drought continued in 2015 and was once again the topic of much discussion. A cool spring, rain at bloom and a hot July along with the continued effects from the lack of rain contributed to lower yields and one of our earliest harvest dates. 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 French oak barrels for sixteen months. The French oak adds nice tannin to the mid-palate, while the vanilla and spice from the barrels complement the dark berry flavor.

The 2015 Cabernet Franc is a dark purple wine with aromas of dark fruits, blueberry, chocolate, vanilla and a slight floral quality. There are flavors of plum, black cherry, vanilla, blueberry and cassis. This is a rich, lush wine with a nice balance and a textured, 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.

Accolades: 2015: 95 points, Platinum Medal & Best Cabernet Franc - Critics Challenge
2015: 94 points & Gold Medal - California State Fair
2015: 90 points & Gold Medal - Sommelier Challenge
2015: Gold Medal & Best of Class - Sunset International Wine Competition
2015: Double Gold Medal & Best of Class - Dan Berger International Wine Competition
2015: Double Gold Medal & Reserve Class Champion - HLSR Intl Wine Competition
2015: Gold Medal - San Antonio Rodeo and Stock Show Wine Competition



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 4 - 15, 2015
Barrel Aging: 16 months French oak, 30% new
Closure: Cork
First Vintage: 1996
Alcohol: 14% **TA:** 6.4 g/L **pH:** 3.58
SRP: \$30 **Cases:** 1848



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