

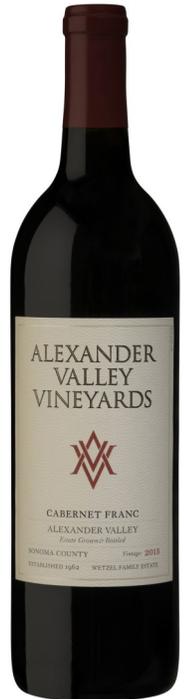
ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

2016 Estate Cabernet Franc

Alexander Valley Vineyards Estate Cabernet Franc is 100% Cabernet Franc. This varietal is often thought of as 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 sought out by wine lovers.

Overall, 2016 was a more normal growing season than the last few years. While the drought was still persistent, we received much needed rain over the winter and early spring. The good weather continued through the summer with no damaging heat spikes. Yields were slightly reduced, but the quality and flavor of the grapes were stellar. After harvest the grapes were fermented in our smaller tanks resulting in good extraction and concentrated flavors. Pump-overs 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 2016 Cabernet Franc is a dark purple wine with aromas of dark fruits, blueberry, chocolate, vanilla and a slight floral quality. There are plush flavors of plum, black cherry, vanilla, blueberry and cassis. This is a silky, rich wine with a nice balance and a long 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: 2016: 90 points - *Wine Advocate*
2016: 91 points & Gold Medal - *Critics 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 16 - 26, 2016

Barrel Aging: 16 months French oak, 30% new

Closure: Cork

First Vintage: 1996

Alcohol: 14% **TA:** 5.7 g/L **pH:** 3.53

SRP: \$30 **Cases:** 1840



Healdsburg ~ Sonoma County ~ California

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