

# ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

## 2018 Homestead Red Blend

Homestead Red Blend celebrates winemaking in Northern Sonoma County's Alexander Valley. The 2018 is a blend of six of our favorite grapes. Each varietal adds complexity and dimension to this well balanced wine. Winemaker Kevin Hall anchored the blend with rich, concentrated Merlot, added Zinfandel for spicy notes, Cabernet Sauvignon for elegant structure, Grenache for berry flavors, Mourvedre for additional texture, and Syrah for more bright spicy flavors and floral aromatics.

The 2018 growing season began a bit cooler than the past few vintages, but we had a near perfect fruit set with moderate summer temperatures and relatively few heat spikes. The mild weather led to a longer hang time, allowing the grapes to ripen slowly. Harvest began on September 10 and the fruit had excellent flavors and balanced natural acidity.

Each individual lot for Homestead Red Blend was picked, fermented and barrel aged separately in order to maximize complexity and broaden the flavors in the glass.

This dark purple wine has complex aromas of black cherry, spice, plum, cassis, blueberry, oak and vanilla. This is a medium bodied wine with spicy flavors of berry, plum, cherry, oak and vanilla. This is a lush, juicy wine with nice balance and a long structured finish.

**Food Pairing:** Perfect with red meats. Try it with burgers, classic shepherds pie or long slow braised dishes.

**Accolades:** **2018: 90 points & Gold Medal** - *Sunset International Wine Competition*  
**2017: 95 points & Gold Medal** - *Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge*



**Profile:** • Aromatic, juicy berry flavors • Medium bodied, nicely balanced, long finish

### About Alexander Valley Vineyards:

Alexander Valley is a small appellation about 20 miles long and a mile wide with a climate that is described as coastal warm. It is similar to Bordeaux with a blend of coastal and inland influences, providing ideal growing conditions. The Russian River divides the valley in half lengthwise and is responsible for the morning fog. The narrowing of the valley at both ends retains the fog, cooling the vines and promoting acid development in the fruit. When the fog clears in mid-morning, the sun warms the earth and ripens the grapes, assuring a harvest of balanced fruit with pronounced varietal character.

### Technical Data:

**Grapes:** 44% Merlot, 32% Zinfandel, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Grenache, 6% Mourvedre, 3% Syrah

**Harvest:** September 10 - November 8, 2018

**Barrel Regimen:** 12 months in French and American oak

**Alcohol:** 14.0% **pH:** 3.79 **TA:** g/L **Cases:** 11,000

**UPC:** 0-85798-66608-9 **First Vintage:** 2009



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## *The Story Behind the Wine ...*

Homestead Red Blend showcases family farming in Northern Sonoma County's Alexander Valley. Our home, vineyards and winery are located on the historic property originally settled by valley namesake Cyrus Alexander. Only two families have ever lived on this land - our family is honored to continue the traditions begun by the Alexander Family in the 1840s.

Over the years our red wines have achieved national and international success with critics and wine drinkers. While many love the big reds, the next generation of AVV fans were asking for a luscious, aromatic, well balanced and juicy wine. Harry and Robert Wetzel decided to celebrate the rich history of Alexander Valley Vineyards with a blend of our favorite grapes.



Working with Winemaker Kevin Hall they crafted a wine that would be at home on the Wetzel family table and a wine that could easily be enjoyed by friends and family. They named it Homestead Red Blend in honor of their family's legacy on the property.

Winemaker Kevin Hall selected Merlot with rich concentration to anchor the 2017 blend, then added Zinfandel for spicy notes, Grenache for berry flavors, Cabernet Sauvignon for elegant structure, Mouvedre for additional texture and Syrah for bright berry flavors and floral aromatics.

While the blend changes from vintage to vintage our commitment to family farming won't. Join us in celebrating family farming with each glass of Homestead Red Blend! Alexander Valley Vineyards is proud to be a family owned and operated business. Every bottle we produce reflects our heritage and each glass of wine shares our story. Our family creates wines of distinction for everyone!



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