



## Homestead Red Blend 2013

Homestead Red Blend celebrates winemaking in Northern Sonoma County's Alexander Valley. The 2013 is a blend of six of our favorite grapes. Each varietal adds a different flavor profile to this well balanced wine. Winemaker Kevin Hall selected Merlot with rich concentration to anchor the blend, then added Zinfandel for spicy notes, Grenache for the berry flavors, Cabernet Sauvignon for its elegant structure, Mourvedre for additional texture and then rounded out the blend with Syrah with bright berry flavors and floral aromatics.

The 2013 growing season was almost identical to 2012. The year began with another dry winter and spring, then throughout the summer we experienced warm days with abundant sunshine and moderate temperatures. Our grapes ripened evenly, harvest started 11 days earlier than in 2012 and proceeded at a fairly quick pace. While news of the lack of rain dominated conversations, there was an upside to the drought; the grapes had more concentrated flavors than in 2012. The individual lots for Homestead Red Blend were picked, fermented and barrel aged separately in order to maximize complexity and broaden the flavors in the glass.

This dark purple wine has complex, earthy aromas of plum, cassis, black cherry, stone fruits, spice and violets. In the glass there are flavors of spice, berry, plum, cherry, oak and vanilla. This is a nicely balanced wine with a juicy finish.

**Food Pairing:** Perfect with red meats. Try it with grilled foods in the warmer months and long slow braised dishes in the cooler months.

- Awards:**
- 2013: Double Gold Medal** - *San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition*
  - 2013: 88 points** - *California State Fair*
  - 2013: 87 points** - *Wine Advocate* "intriguing blend, excellent bistro style red"

- Profile:**
- **Aromatic**
  - **Medium bodied, berry flavors, nicely balanced**

### 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:** 42% Merlot, 24% Zinfandel, 14% Grenache, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Mourvedre, 6% Syrah

**Harvest:** August 30 - October 19, 2013

**Barrel Regimen:** 13 months in French and American oak

**Alcohol:** 14.0%    **pH:** 3.66    **TA:** 6.8 g/L

**UPC:** 0-85798-66608-9



## *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, a wine that could easily be enjoyed by friends and family and a wine that generations of their family could enjoy sitting on the porch overlooking the property they call home. They named it Homestead Red Blend in honor of their family's legacy on the property.

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While the blend will change from vintage to vintage our commitment to family farming won't. Join us in celebrating family farming with each glass of Homestead Red Blend!

