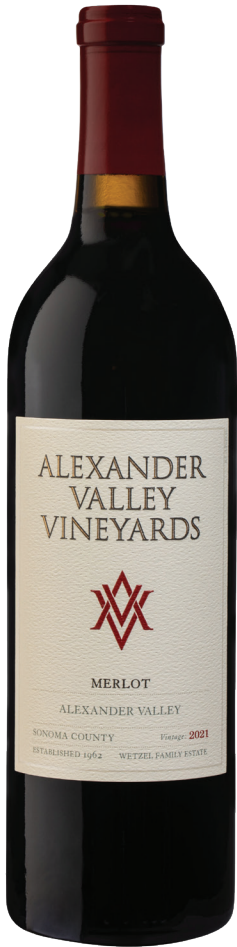


*Our family creates wines of distinction for everyone.*

## 2021 Merlot - 750ml

<b>Appellation:</b> Alexander Valley	<b>Blend:</b> Merlot 100%	<b>Harvest Date:</b> 9/9 - 9/30/21	<b>Alcohol:</b> 14%	<b>Cases:</b> 14,056
<b>First Vintage:</b> 1984	<b>Cave Aged:</b> 15 months French & American oak barrels, 25% new	<b>pH:</b> 3.54	<b>TA:</b> 6.2 g/L	<b>UPC:</b> 0-85798 08862-1
		<b>RS:</b> 0.24 g/L	<b>SRP:</b> \$24	<b>Also Available:</b> 375ml stelvin



Merlot from the Wetzel Family Estate has a reputation for being a big, complex wine. First produced in 1984, this has been a classically structured wine each year, often showing as much tannin as many Cabernet Sauvignons.

The 2021 growing season enjoyed near-perfect growing conditions. The year began with unseasonably warm temperatures, and lower than normal rainfall. This was followed by weeks of steady daytime heat and cool evenings, allowing the grapes to ripen evenly. Harvest began on September 9th. At harvest, the quality of the fruit was excellent with high acidity and intense flavors.

We prune our Merlot vines heavily and drop fruit several times during the growing season so the remaining clusters ripen evenly. Winemaker Kevin Hall has found that fermenting Merlot at a slightly lower temperature than some of our other Bordeaux varieties maintains the lush flavors and structure. After fermentation the wine spent 15 months aging in a combination of French and American oak barrels.

This wine impresses red wine lovers immediately with spicy aromas of black cherry, plum, boysenberry, cassis, vanilla and oak in the glass. Our Merlot is full bodied with big flavors of black cherry, plum, cassis and slight chocolate. This is a big, structured Merlot with beautiful balance and a long, textured finish.

### **Profile:**

Serious Merlot- aromatic, textured, structured.

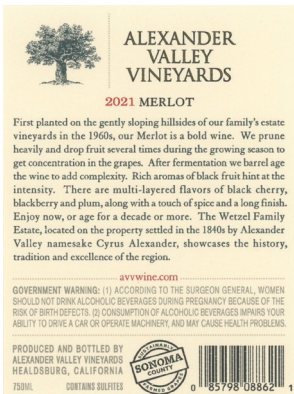
### **Pairing Suggestions:**

The fruit and structure of this wine pairs with a variety of big flavors. A family favorite is Beef Stroganoff. Classic pairings include lamb chops, duck, prime rib and filet. For a cold weather treat, try a glass with Mushroom Bisque.

### **Accolades:**

**2021: 93 points - James Suckling**

**2021: Gold Medal - San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo 2025 International Wine Competition**



## ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

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