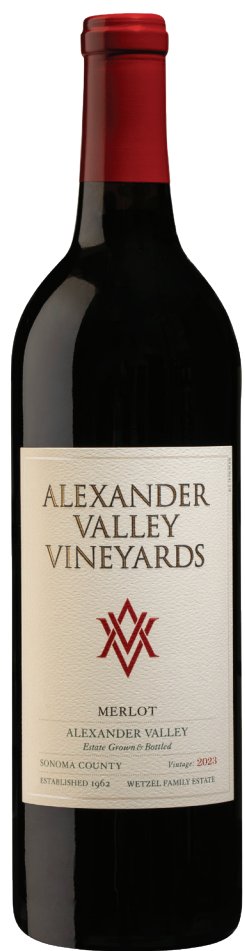


*Our family creates wines of distinction for everyone.*

## 2023 Merlot - 750ml

<b>Appellation:</b> Alexander Valley	<b>Blend:</b> Merlot 100%	<b>Harvest Date:</b> 9/6/22 to 10/12/22	<b>Alcohol:</b> 14% <b>pH:</b> 3.57	<b>Cases:</b> 21,275 <b>UPC:</b> 0-85798 08862-1
<b>First Vintage:</b> 1984		<b>Cave Aged:</b> 17 months French and American oak barrels, 25% new	<b>TA:</b> 6.1 g/L <b>RS:</b> 0.62 g/L	<b>SRP:</b> \$24



First produced in 1984, this has been a classically structured wine each year, often showing as much tannin as many Cabernet Sauvignons.

2023 began with heavy winter rainfall that delivered much needed moisture to the vines, followed by a long, cool growing season. Our harvest occurred about three weeks later than last year, but the long hang time allowed for the development of complexity. At harvest, the quality of the fruit was excellent with balanced acidity and intense flavors. The wine was cave aged for 16 months in 25% new French and American oak barrels.

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 was cave aged for 16 months in a combination of French and American oak barrels.

This wine often amazes red wine lovers with its expansive flavors. The glass is filled with spicy aromas of black cherry, plum, boysenberry, cassis, vanilla and subtle oak notes. Our 2023 Merlot is a powerful, full bodied wine with rich flavors of black cherry, plum, cassis and slight chocolate. This well-structured Merlot has beautiful balance and a long, structured 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:**  
2023: 93 points - James Suckling

**ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS**  
2023 MERLOT

First planted on the gently sloping hillsides of our family's estate vineyards in the 1960s, our Merlot is a bold wine. We prune heavily and drop fruit several times during the growing season to get concentration in the grapes. After fermentation we barrel age the wine to add complexity. Rich aromas of black fruit hint at the intensity. There are multi-layered flavors of black cherry, blackberry and plum, along with a touch of spice and a long finish. Enjoy now, or age for a decade or more. The Wetzel Family Estate, located on the property settled in the 1840s by Alexander Valley namesake Cyrus Alexander, showcases the history, tradition and excellence of the region.

avvwine.com

GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) ACCORDING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL, WOMEN SHOULD NOT DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS. (2) CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE A CAR OR OPERATE MACHINERY, AND MAY CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS.

PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA

750ml CONTAINS SULFITES

CA 071

SONOMA COUNTY EARTH FRIENDLY

0 85798 08862 1

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