



2011 CYRUS

Our six hundred acre property was the homestead of valley namesake Cyrus Alexander. When he rode into our valley in 1840 he called it the "brightest and best spot in the world". He chose this spot to build his home and raise his family, and many years later we would do the same. This wine is our tribute to the man, the region and the very best of the vintage.

In 1995 Hank Wetzel produced the first vintage of CYRUS, Winemaker Kevin Hall carries on the tradition with the 17th release of CYRUS. He selected 10 distinctive lots of estate Bordeaux grapes for this vintage: Cabernet Sauvignon with exceptional concentration, purity & lush texture; Cabernet Franc with finesse & depth; Merlot for texture & structure; Petit Verdot for vivid color & richness and Malbec for deep color & depth.

Light and late are the two words most often used to describe the 2011 vintage. A wet winter and spring delayed bloom and heavy rain at bloom hindered the fruit set decreasing grape yields dramatically. A cool summer prolonged the growing season and harvest started later than usual. The overall effect was great flavor development at lower than normal sugar levels resulting in balanced wines at lower alcohol levels.

After harvest each lot was fermented and aged separately for 12 months, then blended to showcase the vintage and aged for an additional 12 months in French oak barrels so that the flavors could meld together. Additional bottle aging allowed the blend to become seamless. The 2011 has terrific color and expressive aromas of cassis, red cherry, berry, red and black plum along with toasty oak and vanilla. This is a complex wine with flavors of dark fruits, spice, vanilla and cocoa powder. There is good structure on the finish along with a classic elegance and silky dimension as well. This wine is always limited, we produced 912 cases of the low yielding 2011 vintage.



- Accolades:**
- 2011: 93 points & Gold Medal - Beverage Testing Institute**
 - 2011: 93 points & Gold Medal - Winemakers Challenge**
 - 2011: Gold Medal - Sonoma Harvest Fair & S.A.L.E. Rodeo Wine Competition**
 - 2011: Double Gold Medal - Hilton Head Wine & Food Festival**
 - 2011: 88 points - Decanter Magazine**

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| Profile: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elegant, expressive • The First Growth of Sonoma |
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About Alexander Valley Vineyards:

Over the last decade we have replanted our vineyards with reduced spacing resulting in more rows per acre and closer spacing per vine. On some sites we have more than doubled the plants in these high density vineyards. These tightly spaced vines produce around 10-12 pounds of grapes per vine. This low yield results in great complexity in the glass, while more vines per acre is one of the keys to great value in our bottles. So the next time you hear someone quoting tons per acre, be sure to ask them how many vines are producing that ton and compute the pounds per vine.

Technical Data:

Grapes: 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot, 6% Malbec, 4% Petit Verdot

Harvest: September 29 thru October 26, 2011

Closure: Cork

Alcohol: 14.3% **pH:** 3.5 **TA:** 6.4 g/L

UPC: 0-85798-11062-9 750ml

