

ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

2018 CYRUS

In 1840 Alexander Valley namesake Cyrus Alexander rode into our valley and 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. Our 24th release is our tribute to the man, the region and the very best of the vintage.

Varietal	Lots	Aging	Aromatics	Traits
Cabernet Sauvignon	3	French & American oak	Complex, chocolate, spice, vanilla, cassis & dark fruits	Dark fruit black cherry, blackberry, big grippy tannins
Merlot	1	French & American oak	Slightly floral	Fruit forward - cherry, cassis & plum
Cabernet Franc	1	French oak	Strong floral, blueberry & dark fruit	Dark chocolate, cassis & vanilla
Malbec	1	French oak	Floral & red fruit	Intense inky color, deep flavors of raspberry & candied fruit
Petit Verdot	1	French oak	Blueberry & vanilla	Dark inky purple color, great acidity on the finish



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 with excellent flavors and balanced natural acidity. After harvest each lot was fermented and aged separately for 12 months, blended to showcase the vintage, then aged for an additional 12 months in French oak barrels to meld the flavors. Additional bottle aging resulted in a seamless blend.

The concentrated dark purple color hints at this wine's complexity. Scents of cassis, black cherry, cedar, dark chocolate, along with notes of vanilla and oak and vanilla fill the glass. While silky, the 2018 has incredible structure and balance with dark fruit flavors of cassis, black cherry, dark chocolate and barrel spice. As this wine sits in the glass it just keeps building on itself, hinting at the complexity that will occur with additional cellar aging.

Accolades: 2018: 92 points - James Suckling

Profile: • **Balanced, expressive** • **Structured, yet silky**

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: 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 1% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot

Harvest: September 25 - October 22, 2018

Closure: Cork

First Vintage: 1995

Alcohol: 14.5% **pH:** 3.50 **TA:** 6.7 g/L

UPC: 0-85798-11062-9 **750ml** **Cases:** 495 (6 pks)



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