



2014 Estate Cabernet Franc

Alexander Valley Vineyards Estate Cabernet Franc is one of the few 100% Cabernet Francs produced in California. Many think of Cabernet Franc as only a blending grape, and we do blend a small percentage into our Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and our premium blend CYRUS. Early on we quickly realized that our Cabernet Franc was exceptional on its own and started bottling a few cases of the 1996 vintage for the tasting room. Since that time the wine has consistently been recognized as one of the top examples from California.

"This wine gives wine lovers a chance to see what Cab Franc actually tastes like" says Winemaker Kevin Hall, "the varietal has a softer tannin profile than our Cabernet Sauvignon."

The unprecedented drought in California was national news, a mild winter and spring caused early bud break, but the overall length of the growing season was similar to past years. The lack of rain did not impact our fruit due to moderate temperatures throughout the growing season and the grapes had terrific concentration and superb fruit flavors at harvest. After harvest the grapes were fermented in our smaller tanks resulting in good extraction and concentrated flavors. Pumpovers occurred twice daily for two weeks and then the wine was aged in French Oak barrels for sixteen months. The French oak adds nice tannin to mid palate, while the vanilla and spice from the barrels complement the dark berry flavor.

The 2014 Cabernet Franc has aromas of black cherry, blueberry, dark plum, vanilla and chocolate with flavors of plum, black cherry, vanilla, blueberry and cassis. This is a rich, lush wine with a nice fruit balance and a structured finish.

Food Pairing: Classic with grilled meats, wild game and lamb. At home we like to pair this with lasagna and other meat ragus . Try it with Maytag Blue or Jasper Hill Blue cheese to end an evening.

Accolades:

- 2014: 95 points & Platinum Medal - *Sommelier Challenge*
- 2014: 91 points & Highly Recommended - *Ultimate Wine Challenge*
- 2014: Double Gold Medal - *S.A.L.E. Wine Competition*
- 2014: Gold Medal & Best of Class - *International Women's Wine Competition*
- 2014: Gold Medal - *Sonoma County Harvest Fair*

Profile:

- Dark fruits, vanilla & chocolate
- Rich texture & long finish

About Alexander Valley Vineyards:

Harry and Maggie Wetzel purchased the 600 acres that is home to AVV in 1962 from the heirs of valley namesake Cyrus Alexander. The Wetzel Family Estate stretches from the banks of the Russian River to the Mayacamas Mountains and today the 4th generation of the family calls it home. From the beginning the family has celebrated the unique place they call home by producing wines showcasing the terroir of the Alexander Valley.

Technical Data:

Grapes: Cabernet Franc 100%

Harvest: September 10 - 13, 2014

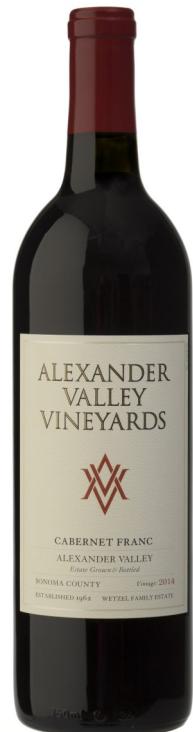
Barrel Aging: 16 months French Oak, 25% new

Closure: cork

First Vintage: 1996

Alcohol: 14% **TA:** 6.8 g/L **ph:** 3.52

SRP: \$28 **Cases:** 1985



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