

2016 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

In the late 1960s we bottled a few cases of Cabernet Sauvignon for friends and family. Those first few cases of homemade wine inspired the vision for our estate winery, Alexander Valley Vineyards and our flagship wine Cabernet Sauvignon.

Overall, 2016 was a more normal growing season than the last few years. While the drought was still persistent, we received much needed rain over the winter and early spring. The good weather continued through the summer with no damaging heat spikes. Yields were slightly reduced, but the quality and flavor of the grapes were stellar. After harvest the different lots were de-stemmed, fermented separately, then aged in 25% new American and French oak barrels for 14 months.

The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon is a classic Alexander Valley wine with medium body, great fruit flavors and smooth, structured tannins. Winemaker Kevin Hall added 13% Merlot for structure, a touch of Cabernet Franc for floral notes and Malbec and Petit Verdot for color.

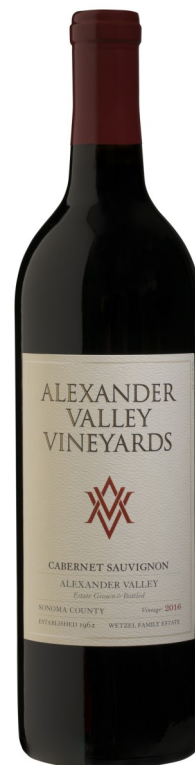
There are aromas of black cherry, cassis, plum, slight blueberry, vanilla, oak and chocolate. In the glass there are rich flavors of cherry, cassis, blackberry and chocolate. This is a fruit forward wine with lush flavors, nice balance and a long, silky finish.

Food Pairing: Grilled or pan seared beef, lamb or tuna is a classic. For an unexpected pairing serve with a caramelized onion and blue cheese tart as an appetizer.

Accolades: **95 points & Double Gold Medal** - *San Francisco International Wine Competition*
92 points & Gold Medal - *Winemakers Challenge*
Most Popular Cabernet Sauvignon - *Wine & Spirits Annual 29th Restaurant Poll April 2018*
(11th consecutive year that AVV Cabernet Sauvignon has made the list)
Gold Medal Best Value - *China Wine & Spirits Awards 2019*
Gold Medal - *S.A.L.E. International Wine Competition & Hilton Head Wine & Food Competition*
89 points - *Beverage Dynamics*

Profile:

- Loads of dark spicy fruit
- Polished, yet structured



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. We are proud to be celebrating our 40th anniversary at the winery in 2015.

Technical Data:

Grapes: Cabernet Sauvignon 80%, Merlot 13%, Malbec 3%, Cabernet Franc 2%, Petit Verdot 2%

Harvest: September 6 - October 13, 2016

Closure: 750ml cork 375ml stelvin

Alcohol: 14.0% **pH:** 3.66 **TA:** 6.2 g/L

First Vintage: 1975 **SRP:** \$24

UPC: 0-85798 02872-6 750ml
0-85798 02871-9 375ml



ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS



So how did AVV make a Cabernet back in the '60s prior to the start of the winery? Early on the Wetzels planted Cabernet Sauvignon on the property and sold it to other growers. But, there was always a desire to make their own wine from their grapes. From the beginning Harry and Maggie Wetzel decided that this was to be a family made wine that reflected their unique property. Katie recalls one of her first crushes: "I had to de-stem the grapes and then pull any I missed from the basket press". Hank remembers an early trade of their Cabernet grapes with a neighboring winery for one of their first barrels. Filled with AVV Cabernet Sauvignon the barrel aged in the cool adobe.

When time to bottle, the adobe "cellar" was converted to the adobe "bottling line".



Family and friends were called in to hand bottle and cork those early vintages. Harry and Maggie made sure that all pitched in, learning as they went. John started out filling bottles as a nine year old on the small bottling line set up in the historic adobe. Everyone looked forward to working those early bottling lines and eventually Linda would convince college roommates to come and help with later vintages. One just wrote and reminded her of how much fun they had during those early bottlings.

Finally, everyone helped to apply the first of the Alexander Valley Vineyards labels.

So what varietals did the family bottle prior to the 1975 start of AVV? Just one: Cabernet Sauvignon. Not a day goes by without someone asking the Wetzel Family about their favorite wine. Now you know why they always answer: "Cabernet Sauvignon is our sentimental favorite".

