

# ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

## 2017 Homestead Red Blend

Homestead Red Blend celebrates winemaking in Northern Sonoma County's Alexander Valley. The 2017 is a blend of six of our favorite grapes. Each varietal adds complexity to this well balanced wine. Winemaker Kevin Hall selected Merlot with rich concentration to anchor the blend, then added Zinfandel for spicy notes, Grenache for berry flavors, Mourvedre for additional texture, Cabernet Sauvignon for elegant structure, and then rounded out the blend with Syrah for bright berry flavors and floral aromatics.

2017 was a vintage of contrasts. Our ample rainfall in January and February allayed any discussion of drought, but winter rains were followed by a warm spring and many heat spikes throughout the summer until we began picking the first lot in early September.

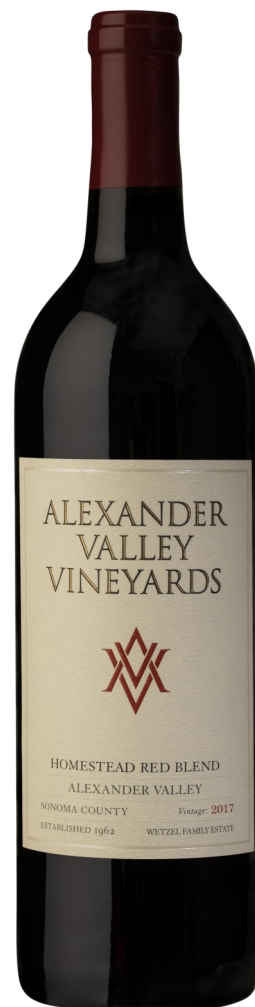
After harvest the different lots were de-stemmed, fermented separately, then aged in 25% new American and French oak barrels for 14 months. Each individual lot for Homestead Red Blend was picked, fermented and barrel aged separately in order to maximize complexity and broaden the flavors in the glass.

This dark purple wine has complex aromas of black cherry, plum, cassis, blueberry, oak, vanilla and spice. This is a medium bodied wine with spicy flavors of berry, plum, cherry, oak and vanilla. This lush wine, has juicy fruit with nice balance and a long structured finish.

**Food Pairing:** Perfect with red meats. Try it with burgers, classic shepherds pie or long slow braised dishes.

**Accolades:**

- 2017: 95 points & Gold Medal - Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge
- 2017: 94 points & Gold Medal - Toast of the Coast Wine Competition
- 2017: 91 points - California State Fair
- 2017: 91 points & Gold Medal - Critics Challenge
- 2017: 90 points & Gold Medal - Sommelier Challenge International Wine & Spirits Competition
- 2017: 90 points & Highly Recommended - Ultimate Wine Challenge
- 2017: Gold Medal - Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Intl Wine Competition
- 2017: 88 points - Wine Advocate



**Profile:** • Aromatic, juicy berry flavors • Medium bodied, nicely balanced, long finish

### About Alexander Valley Vineyards:

Alexander Valley is a small appellation about 20 miles long and a mile wide with a climate that is described as coastal warm. It is similar to Bordeaux with a blend of coastal and inland influences, providing ideal growing conditions. The Russian River divides the valley in half lengthwise and is responsible for the morning fog. The narrowing of the valley at both ends retains the fog, cooling the vines and promoting acid development in the fruit. When the fog clears in mid-morning, the sun warms the earth and ripens the grapes, assuring a harvest of balanced fruit with pronounced varietal character.

### Technical Data:

**Grapes:** 48% Merlot, 20% Zinfandel, 11% Grenache, 10% Mourvedre, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Syrah

**Harvest:** September 2 - October 20, 2017

**Barrel Regimen:** 14 months in French and American oak

**Alcohol:** 14.0% **pH:** 3.74 **TA:** 6.1 g/L **Cases:** 6,000

**UPC:** 0-85798-66608-9 **First Vintage:** 2009



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## *The Story Behind the Wine ...*

Homestead Red Blend showcases family farming in Northern Sonoma County's Alexander Valley. Our home, vineyards and winery are located on the historic property originally settled by valley namesake Cyrus Alexander. Only two families have ever lived on this land - our family is honored to continue the traditions begun by the Alexander Family in the 1840s.

Over the years our red wines have achieved national and international success with critics and wine drinkers. While many love the big reds, the next generation of AVV fans were asking for a luscious, aromatic, well balanced and juicy wine. Harry and Robert Wetzel decided to celebrate the rich history of Alexander Valley Vineyards with a blend of our favorite grapes.



Working with Winemaker Kevin Hall they crafted a wine that would be at home on the Wetzel family table and a wine that could easily be enjoyed by friends and family. They named it Homestead Red Blend in honor of their family's legacy on the property.

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While the blend changes from vintage to vintage our commitment to family farming won't. Join us in celebrating family farming with each glass of Homestead Red Blend! Alexander Valley Vineyards is proud to be a family owned and operated business. Every bottle we produce reflects our heritage and each glass of wine shares our story. Our family creates wines of distinction for everyone!



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