

ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

2019 Merlot

Merlot from Alexander Valley Vineyards is sometimes overlooked due to the success of our world class Cabernet Sauvignon. However, visitors to the winery quickly realize that our Merlot is equally stunning. First produced in 1984, this is a rich, concentrated red wine. Some call it a Merlot for Cab drinkers, we call it a Merlot for serious Merlot lovers.

While the weather was a bit cooler than usual early in the 2019 growing season, there were no unusual temperature swings during bud break or flowering. Moderate temperatures continued through the summer, allowing the grapes to mature gradually. After 2018's record setting crop size, 2019 swung back to an average yield. At harvest, the quality of the fruit was excellent with high acidity and intense flavors.

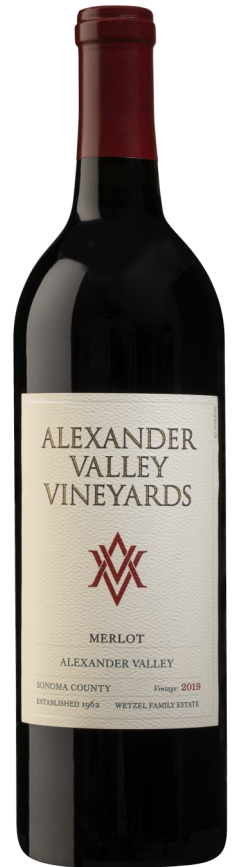
We prune our Merlot vines heavily and drop fruit several times during the growing season so the remaining clusters ripen evenly. Winemaker Kevin Hall has found that fermenting Merlot at a slightly lower temperature than some of our other Bordeaux varieties maintains the lush flavors and structure. After fermentation the lots aged for 12 months in French and American oak barrels.

This wine impresses red wine lovers immediately with spicy aromas of cassis, black cherry, plum, vanilla, oak and slight chocolate in the glass. Our Merlot is full bodied with big flavors of blackberry, plum, cassis and juicy red cherry. The layered flavors are well balanced with a long, textured finish.

Food Pairing: The fruit and structure of this wine pairs with a variety of big flavors. Family favorites include beef stroganoff, beef stews, lamb chops, duck, prime rib and filet.

Accolades: 2019: 93 points & Gold Medal - *BTI*
2019: 92 points - *James Suckling*
2019: 90 points - *Tasting Panel Magazine*
2019: Gold Medal & Reserve Class Champion - *HLSR International Wine Competition*
2019: Double Gold Medal - *Hilton Head Island International Wine Competition*
2019: Gold Medal - *San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo International Wine Competition*

Profile: • Serious Merlot • Juicy, aromatic, structured



Back label features Sustainable logo:

Over the decades we have created and utilized many sustainable practices in our vineyards and winery. We're highlighting our commitment by prominently displaying the Sonoma County Sustainably Farmed Grapes logo on the back label of this bottle.

Sustainability ensures that our business, rural lifestyle and agricultural heritage will be maintained for years to come.

Every time a consumer purchases a bottle of wine with this logo, they are assured that it was produced in an environmentally friendly way by passionate stewards of the land.

Technical Data:

Grapes: 89% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon

Harvest Dates: September 24 – November 5, 2019

Barrel Aging: 12 months in French & American oak, 25% new

First Vintage: 1984

Alcohol: 14.0% **ph:** 3.45 **TA:** 6.7 g/L

UPC: 0-85798 08862-1 750ml cork finish
0-8579808861-4 375ml Stelvin



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Healdsburg - Sonoma County - California

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