

# ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

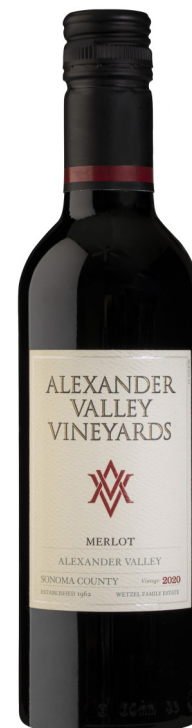
## 2020 Merlot - 375ml

Merlot from the Wetzel Family Estate has a reputation for being a big, complex wine. First produced in 1984, this has been a classically structured wine each year, often showing as much tannin as many Cabernet Sauvignons.

The 2020 growing season enjoyed near-perfect growing conditions. The year began with unseasonably warm temperatures, and lower than normal rainfall. This was followed by weeks of steady daytime heat and cool evenings, allowing the grapes to ripen slowly.

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 wine spent 15 months aging in a combination of French and American oak barrels. Like many, we experienced some supply chain issues obtaining the correctly colored stelvin closure. You'll see some cases with a black/burgundy top, while others will have our recognizable burgundy top.

This wine always impresses red wine lovers, and we refer to it as a Merlot for Cabernet lovers. There are big aromas of black cherry, plum, cassis, vanilla and oak in the glass. This wine has broad mouth-feel with flavors of cherry, cassis, blackberry, plum and a hint of chocolate. This is a nicely balanced wine with a long, textured finish.



**Food Pairing:** The fruit and structure of this wine pairs with a variety of big flavors. A family favorite is Beef Stroganoff. Classic pairings include lamb chops, duck, prime rib and filet.

**Accolades:** 2020: 95 points & Gold Medal - *Beverage Testing Institute*  
2020: 92 points & Gold Medal - *Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge*  
2020: 90 points - *Decanter World Wine Awards*  
2020: Gold Medal & Best of Class - *San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition*

**Profile:**

- Serious Merlot
- Aromatic, textured, 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:** 100% Merlot

**Harvest Dates:** September 10 – October 7, 2020

**Barrel Aging:** 15 months in French & American oak, 25% new

**First Vintage:** 1984 **Closure:** Stelvin

**Alcohol:** 14.0% **ph:** 3.41 **TA:** 6.2 g/L

**SRP:** \$14 **Cases:** 2,250 (12 bottles)

**UPC:** 0-8579808861-4



*Our family creates wines of distinction for everyone.*

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