

ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

2021 Pinot Noir

The Wetzel Family's Pinot Noir vineyards are planted along the banks of the Russian River, where the morning fog lingers and cools the vines. This elegant wine is produced from three clones - Dijon 777, for rich concentration and black fruit; Dijon115, for soft tannins and perfume; and AS2, widely reputed to be progeny of a suitcase cutting from the famed La Tâche vineyard, for deep color and black fruits.

2021 was almost a perfect growing season, though it began with a cold start, and lack of rain. The weather warmed up, but the drought continued. This was followed by weeks of steady daytime heat and cool evenings. The berries ripened evenly, however yields were a bit lighter than in prior vintages due to the lack of rainfall.

After the fruit was hand-harvested each lot was kept separate. Clone 777 underwent a 48-hour cold soak and was tank fermented, while winemaker Kevin Hall placed the other lots in bins and mixed in dry ice for the first day in a technique known as cryoextraction. The dry ice fractured the grape skins, leading to deeper flavor and color extraction from the fruit. Fermentation was completed in half-ton macrobins. Ten months aging in French oak barrels complemented the silky texture of the wine.

Our Pinot Noir is classically styled. Smooth texture and good acidity balance the solid core of fruit. Perfumed, yet earthy aromas of red and black cherry, vanilla, and hint of oak fill the glass. This is a medium-bodied wine with loads of finesse and flavors of fresh cherry, blueberry, plum, barrel spice, a hint of vanilla and slight floral notes. This is a bottle of Pinot Noir with the flavor profile and terroir expression of classic Burgundy at a bottle price you can enjoy everyday.



Food Pairing: Pinot Noir is versatile - serve with both red and white meats. Our favorites include roasted chicken, mushroom risotto, grilled salmon, beef bourguignon and a skillet beef pot pie.

Accolades: 2021: 93 points "Editor's Choice" - *Wine Enthusiast*
2021: 93 points & Gold Medal - *Sunset International Wine Competition*
2021: 91 points - *James Suckling*

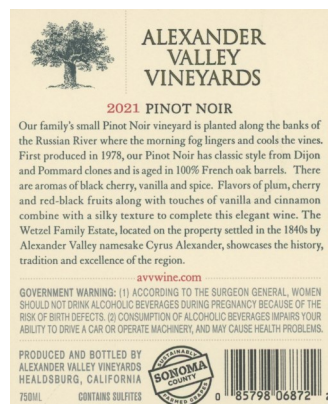
Profile:

- Great balance, elegant & aromatic
- Dark fruit flavors, long finish

Featuring the Sonoma Sustainable Logo:

Over the decades we have created and utilized many sustainable practices in our vineyards and winery. We are excited to formally recognize our commitment by adding the Sonoma County Sustainably Farmed Grapes logo to the back label this wine.

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



Technical Data:

Grapes: Pinot Noir 100%
Harvest: August 30 - September 2, 2021
Barrel Aging: 10 months French Oak, 25% new
Closure: 750ml cork
Alcohol: 14% **pH:** 3.75 **TA:** 5.6 g/L
UPC: 0-85798 06872-2 **SRP:** \$34
Cases: 1,422 **First vintage:** 1978



Our family creates wines of distinction for everyone.

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