Featured in the December 2023 Somm Journal CYRUS 2017 98 points

CYRES

Alexander Valley Vineyards 2017 CYRUS, Alexander Valley, Sonoma County (\$75) Winemaker Kevin Hall has complete control over this blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, and 16% Cab Franc with some Malbec and Petit Verdot; each lot sees 12 months of barrel aging in the winery's naturally cooled underground cave, while the final blend spends an additional year in oak. Notably well structured, the result—which is dedicated to Cyrus Alexander, the region's namesake, who made his home there in 1840—is a deep, dark,

and sensuous red with dusty plum-skin tannins. Dark chocolate exudes personality-plus with cardamom, cedar, violets, and black cherry. Chewy and fleshy, CYRUS is a ballroom dancer on sweet earth, built to show both power and elegance. **98**





Cyrus Alexander explored Northern California in the mid-1800s, calling the spot he chose to settle "the brightest and best spot in the world." In 1962, the Wetzel family followed his lead, and today the Alexander Valley pioneer's historic property is home to their Alexander Valley Vineyards (AVV). Of the wine they named for him, AVV founder Hank Wetzel says, "CYRUS is the ultimate expression of the special place that my family calls home, showcasing both our region and winemaking style."



