

FOLEY F SONOMA

2016 MERLOT ALEXANDER VALLEY

Foley Sonoma is dedicated to mixing old-world tradition and modern technology to create limited production, luxury wines from estate vineyards in the Alexander Valley appellation within Sonoma County. Our family has been growing and creating wines since 1996 throughout California and beyond. The estate vineyards offer diverse terrain and soil types that cater to our focus on the five noble Bordeaux varieties — Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Petit Verdot. We look forward to sharing the wines from this special place with you and your family for years to come. — The Foley Family

VINTAGE

2016 was a superb vintage in Alexander Valley. Although yields were slightly lower than in 2015, fruit quality was high across all varietals. Veraison set in early and completed by the end of July - beginning of August, and a week of warm temperatures pushed harvest up ahead of schedule. The fruit for this 2016 Merlot was harvested October 5 - 7, 2016 and entered the crush pad in optimal condition.

VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

For 2016, we combined fruit from our estate vineyards and from our neighbors, the Fanucchi's. Located just across from the winery, our estate Merlot vineyard has loamy soil which makes for excellent drainage and vigorous growing. The Fanucchi Merlot is planted on gravel soils with excellent drainage, producing highly concentrated fruit. Following harvest, the grapes were fermented in stainless steel tanks and then racked to French oak barrels. After aging for 15 months in barrel (15% new), the wine was bottled.

TASTING NOTES

This 2016 Alexander Valley Merlot opens with dusty plum, tobacco and herbal aromas, with ripe berry tones peeking through. This fragrance carries through to the palate, where bright fruit, trending more toward just-ripe boysenberry, accompanies the same beautifully dusty and tobacco notes found on the nose. These flavors taper off with a touch of mocha on the lasting finish.

TECHNICAL DATA

Appellation: Alexander Valley

Composition: 77% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec

Aging: 15 months in French oak, 15% new

Alcohol: 14.8%

TA: 6.0 g/L

pH: 3.76

Production: 266 Cases

