

SEBASTIANI

VINEYARDS & WINERY



2017

MERLOT

ALEXANDER VALLEY

DAVID NAKAJI, WINEMAKER

TECHNICAL DETAILS

APPELLATION

Alexander Valley

COMPOSITION

100% Merlot

COOPERAGE

18 months in French oak, 30% new

ALCOHOL

14.1%

TA

0.69 g/100ml

PH

3.45

BOTTLING DATE

June 2019

CASES PRODUCED

823

VINEYARDS

The Alexander Valley is located north of the town of Healdsburg in Sonoma County. It is one of the warmer AVAs in the region making it the perfect spot for red Bordeaux grapes. The majority of the fruit for our 2017 Merlot comes from the Lyon Vineyard in the Alexander Valley. The fruit comes from well drained, alluvial soils located next to the Russian River in the northern Alexander Valley. This adds concentration and distinct minerality notes.

VINTAGE

The 2017 growing season started off with record setting rainfalls, delaying bud break from years past. Spring and summer experienced a mixture of foggy, warm and windy conditions. The summer months were moderately warm allowing the grapes to mature at an ideal pace. Extreme heat spikes at the end of August to early September pushed harvest ahead of schedule. We harvested our Merlot from September 20 through October 18, 2017.

WINEMAKING

After a three-day cold soak, we crushed and fermented the grapes in stainless steel tanks. After pressing, each lot was blended or egg-white fined depending on flavor, color and tannin concentration. The wine was aged for 18 months in 30% new French oak barrels.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Dark red in the glass, our 2017 Alexander Valley Merlot is rich, displaying bold dark berry and cherry aromas followed by a savory background. French vanilla and rich chocolate notes fill the nose. On the palate, juicy bright cherry flavors are complimented by warm vanilla and baking spices that create a long and lingering finish. This wine is approachable now but will only continue to improve over the next five years.

- David Nakaji, *Winemaker*