

SEBASTIANI

VINEYARDS & WINERY



2018

MERLOT

ALEXANDER VALLEY

MARK BEAMAN, WINEMAKER

TECHNICAL DETAILS

APPELLATION

Alexander Valley

COMPOSITION

95% Merlot,
5% Cabernet Sauvignon

COOPERAGE

18 months in new and used
French and Hungarian oak

ALCOHOL

14.6%

TA

6.1 g/L

PH

3.47

BOTTLING DATE

July 2020

CASES PRODUCED

925

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 2018 Merlot comes from the Eco Terreno 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 2018 Season was one of the mildest and smoothest in recent memory. Mild spring weather led to good set in most varietals and moderate weather throughout the growing season made of ideal growing conditions. No heat spikes gave us long hang-time and great ripening without ever going over to the raisiny side. The one October rain was followed by dry breezy weather, allowing us to leave things alone that needed more ripening and causing only a two day pause in the harvest. We harvested our Merlot in late October 2018.

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 new and used French and Hungarian oak barrels.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Upon opening, aromas of sweet potpourri, mint, fresh strawberries and espresso entice the senses. Medium-bodied on the palate, our 2018 Alexander Valley Merlot offers lush flavors of rhubarb, ripe raspberry, and vanilla spice. Notes of decadent toffee linger on the smooth finish.

- Mark Beaman, *Winemaker*