

ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS



Limited production wines that focus on some of the *best and unique* lots of wine harvested each year. Winemaker Kevin Hall creates wines showcasing unique varietals, techniques or vineyard sites.

Each hand crafted wine is small production, uniquely different and one of a kind.
750ml 6 bottle case Allocated

The 2016 Series: Primitivo

Primitivo is famous in southern Italy, particularly in the Puglia region (the country's boot heel) where the grape thrives. In California, there have been many debates on Primitivo's family connections to Zinfandel. Definitive genetic analysis completed at UC Davis in 2003 ultimately made a crucial link when it proved that California's Zinfandel, Italy's Primitivo and Croatia's Crljenak/Pribidrag all share the same DNA profile.

At Alexander Valley Vineyards, we've always been intrigued by the Zinfandel connection. In 2000 we planted an acre of Primitivo high above our estate. It quickly became apparent that the varietal had very different flavor profiles than Zinfandel planted in the same area. Those differences make it a perfect varietal for the Alexander School Reserve series.

Overall, 2016 was a more normal growing season than the last few years. While the drought was still persistent, we received much needed rain over the winter and early spring. The good weather continued through the summer with no damaging heat spikes. Yields were slightly reduced, but the quality and flavor of the grapes were stellar. After harvest the grapes were de-stemmed into 1/2 ton macro bins for fermentation with Rockpile yeast. This yeast is perfect for rich concentrated reds and adds a lushness to the wine. After fermentation the wine aged for 21 months in eight American oak barrels. The tiny amount of Zinfandel adds spice and jammy flavors to the wine.

The 2016 Alexander School Reserve Primitivo offers aromas of blueberry and red cherry with a little oak and vanilla. There are distinctive flavors of blueberry, red cherry and cranberry along with a hint of warm spices and cardamon. This is a big wine with great acidity and a juicy finish.



Profile

- Rich, juicy bright berry flavors with spice

About Alexander Valley Vineyards:

Harry and Maggie Wetzel purchased 600 acres of Cyrus Alexander's 1840's homestead in 1962. They started planting grapes in 1963 and from the beginning they realized that the property that stretched from the banks of the Russian River to the hillsides of the Mayacamas Mountains was a very special place. The Wetzel Family Estate has a rich diversity of soil types, elevations, exposures and microclimates giving AVV winemaker Kevin Hall grapes that showcase the terroir and the special place that we call home, Alexander Valley.

Technical Data:

Grapes: Primitivo 99%, Zinfandel 1%
Harvest Dates: September 28, 2016
Barrel regimen: 21 months in American Oak barrels
Alcohol: 16.9% **pH:** 3.2 **TA:** 6.7 g/L
Closure: Cork **UPC:** 0-85798 08062-2
Production: 202 cases



Healdsburg ~ Sonoma County ~ California avvwine.com

