

ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

2012 CYRUS

Our family estate was the homestead of valley namesake Cyrus Alexander. When he rode into our valley in 1840 he called it the "brightest and best spot in the world". He chose this spot to build his home and raise his family, and many years later we would do the same. This wine is our tribute to the man, the region and the very best of the vintage.

In 1995 Hank Wetzel produced the first vintage of CYRUS and today winemaker Kevin Hall carries on the tradition with the 17th release of CYRUS. We selected seven distinctive lots of estate Bordeaux grapes for this vintage; three lots of Cabernet Sauvignon with exceptional dark fruit flavors, complex aromas and structured tannins, two lots of Merlot with juicy fruit and floral aromatics, and one lot each of Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec for finesse, inky color, bright acidity and depth.

2012 was a classic California growing season with ideal weather. In the spring, our vines set a large crop and over the next few months we thinned clusters in many blocks more than once. During the summer, we had an abundance of California coastal "sweater" weather, fog in the morning, and warm sunshine in the afternoon, often sending temperatures into the mid 90s and then quickly cooling off after sunset.

After harvest each lot was fermented and aged separately for 12 months, then blended and aged for an additional 12 months in French oak barrels to meld the flavors. Additional bottle aging allowed the blend to become seamless. The 2012 is a dark purple wine with intense earthy aromas of cassis, black cherry, chocolate, and cherry along with toasty oak and vanilla. This is a silky wine with flavors of cassis, dark chocolate, dark fruits and chocolate covered cherries. The 2012 CYRUS boasts smooth texture, excellent balance and a long structured finish.

Accolades: **2012: 93 points** - *Wine Advocate*
2012: 95 points, Gold Medal & Best of Class of Region - *California State Fair*
2012: 92 points & Gold Medal - *Los Angeles International Wine Competition*
2012: 90 points - *Wine Enthusiast* **2012: Double Gold Medal** - *Hilton Head Island*
2012: Gold Medal & Best of Class - *Sunset International Wine Competition*
2012: Gold Medal - *Sonoma Harvest Fair; Orange County (CA) Wine Competition; San Francisco International Wine Competition; Monterey Wine, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo Wine Competition*

Profile: • **Elegant, expressive** • **Aromatic, rich and concentrated**

About Alexander Valley Vineyards:

Over the last decade we have replanted our vineyards with reduced spacing resulting in more rows per acre and closer spacing per vine. On some sites we have more than doubled the plants in these high density vineyards. These tightly spaced vines produce around 10-12 pounds of grapes per vine. This low yield results in great complexity in the glass, while more vines per acre is one of the keys to great value in our bottles. So the next time you hear someone quoting tons per acre, be sure to ask them how many vines are



Technical Data:

Grapes: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec,

Harvest: September 15 thru October 27, 2012

Closure: Cork

Alcohol: 14.3% **pH:** 3.75 **TA:** g/L

UPC: 0-85798-11062-9 750ml



Healdsburg ~ Sonoma County ~ California avvwine.com

