

# ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

## 2015 CYRUS

In 1840 Alexander Valley namesake Cyrus Alexander rode into our valley and 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, today winemaker Kevin Hall carries on the tradition with our 21<sup>st</sup> release of CYRUS. He has selected nine distinctive lots of estate Bordeaux grapes for this vintage, anchoring the blend with three complex lots of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Varietal	Lots	Aging	Aromatics	Traits
Cabernet Sauvignon	3	French & American oak	Chocolate, spice, dark fruits	Dark fruits, big tannins
Cabernet Franc	2	French oak	Floral & dark fruit	Dark chocolate cassis & vanilla
Merlot	2	French & American oak	Slightly floral	Fruit forward, dark fruits
Malbec	1	French oak	Floral & red fruit	Intense inky color, deep flavors
Petit Verdot	1	French oak	Blueberry & vanilla	Dark color, higher acidity



The western drought continued in 2015 and was the topic of much discussion. A cool spring, rain at bloom and hot July along with the continued effects from the lack of rain contributed to lower yields. As a result the grapes had terrific concentration and superb fruit flavors at harvest.

After harvest each lot was fermented and aged separately for 12 months, blended to showcase the vintage, then aged for an additional 12 months in French oak barrels to meld the flavors. Additional bottle aging results in a seamless blend.

The 2015 has dark purple color and layered, earthy aromas of cassis, black cherry, chocolate, and cherry along with hints of toasty oak and vanilla. This is a silky wine with fresh flavors of cassis, dark chocolate, dark fruits, dusty cherry, and a hint of cedar. The 2015 CYRUS boasts smooth texture, excellent balance and a long, lingering finish. The 2015 is plush now, but as it sits in the glass you get hints of the complexity that will occur with additional cellar aging.

**Accolades:** 2015: 94 points & Gold Medal - London Wine Competition  
 2015: 93 points - Decanter World Wine Awards  
 2015: 92 points & Gold Medal - Beverage Testing Institute  
 2015: 91 points - Wine & Spirits

**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 producing that ton and compute the pounds per vine.

### Technical Data:

**Grapes:** 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot

**Harvest:** September 4 - October 7, 2015

**Closure:** Cork

**First Vintage:** 1995

**Alcohol:** 14.5% **pH:** 3.53 **TA:** 6.5 g/L

**UPC:** 0-85798-11062-9 750ml



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