

# ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

## 2016 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 22<sup>nd</sup> release of CYRUS. He has selected ten distinctive lots of estate Bordeaux grapes for this vintage, anchoring the blend with four complex lots of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Varietal	Lots	Aging	Aromatics	Traits
Cabernet Sauvignon	4	French & American oak	Chocolate, spice, dark fruits	Dark fruits, big tannins
Merlot	2	French & American oak	Slightly floral	Fruit forward, dark fruits
Cabernet Franc	2	French oak	Floral & dark fruit	Dark chocolate cassis & vanilla
Malbec	1	French oak	Floral & red fruit	Intense inky color, deep flavors
Petit Verdot	1	French oak	Blueberry & vanilla	Dark color, higher acidity

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 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 resulted in a seamless blend. The 2016 has dark purple/red color and layered aromas of cassis, black cherry, black plum, cedar, dark chocolate, and hints of toasty oak and vanilla. This is a silky wine with flavors of cassis, dark chocolate, dark fruits, black cherry, barrel spice and cardamom. The 2016 CYRUS has smooth texture, excellent balance and a long structured finish. As this wine sits in the glass it just keeps building on itself, hinting at the complexity that will occur with additional cellar aging.



**Accolades:** 2015: 93 points - *Decanter*  
2014: 91 points - *Wine Advocate*  
2012: 93 points - *Wine Advocate*

2015: 91 points - *Wine & Spirits*  
2013: 93 points - *Wine Advocate*  
2011: 93 points - *Winemaker Challenge*

**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:** 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot

**Harvest:** September 9 - October 1, 2016

**Closure:** Cork

**First Vintage:** 1995

**Alcohol:** 14.5% **pH:** 3.51 **TA:** 5.9 g/L

**UPC:** 0-85798-11062-9 **750ml Cases:** 4,973 (6 pks)



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