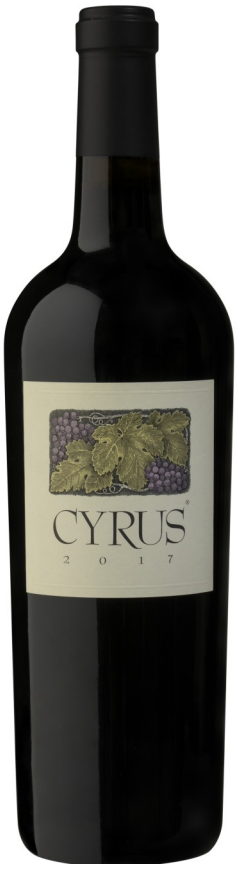
ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS

2017 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. Our 23rd release is our tribute to the man, the region and the very best of the vintage.



Varietal	Lots	Aging	Aromatics	Traits
Cabernet Sauvignon	4	French & American oak	Complex, chocolate, spice, vanilla, cassis & dark fruits	Dark fruit black cherry, blackberry, big grippy tannins
Merlot	2	French & American oak	Slightly floral	Fruit forward - cherry, cassis & plum
Cabernet Franc	1	French oak	Strong floral, blueberry & dark fruit	Dark chocolate, cassis & vanilla
Malbec	1	French oak	Floral & red fruit	Intense inky color, deep flavors of raspberry & candied fruit
Petit Verdot	1	French oak	Blueberry & vanilla	Dark inky purple color, great acidity on the finish

2017 was a vintage of contrasts, with ample January and February rainfall, followed by a warm spring and rolling heat spikes throughout the summer. The nine lots ultimately selected for the blend were harvested over a period of 33 days. 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 rich dark purple color only hints at the intense, layered aromas in the glass. Scents of cassis, black cherry, boysenberry, cedar, dark chocolate, along with notes of toasty oak and vanilla are indicative of the concentration of this blend. While lush, the 2017 has incredible structure and balance with dark fruit flavors of cassis, black cherry, dark chocolate, barrel spice and cardamom. 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*
2013: 93 points - *Wine Advocate*
2012: 93 points - *Wine Advocates*
2011: 93 points - *Winemaker Challenge*
2010: 92 points - *Wine Enthusiast*

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: 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot

Harvest: September 12 - October 14, 2017

Closure: Cork

First Vintage: 1995

Alcohol: 14.5% **pH:** 3.57 **TA:** 6.4 g/L

UPC: 0-85798-11062-9 *750ml* **Cases:** 4,848 (6 pks)