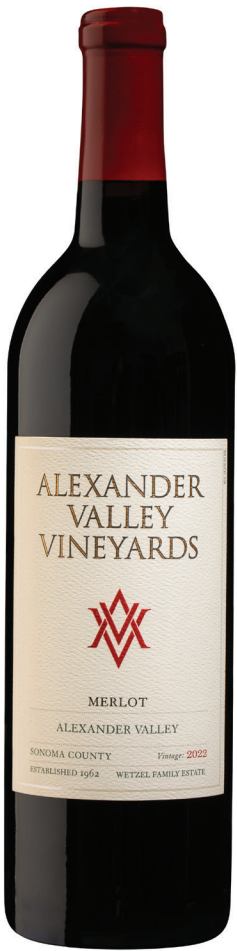




*Our family creates wines of distinction for everyone.*



## 2022 Merlot - 750ml

<b>Appellation:</b> Alexander Valley	<b>Blend:</b> Merlot 97% Malbec 2% Cabernet Sauvignon 1%	<b>Harvest Date:</b>	<b>Alcohol:</b> 14% <b>pH:</b> 3.56 <b>TA:</b> 5.8 g/L <b>RS:</b> 0.40g/L	<b>Cases:</b> 19,915 <b>UPC:</b> 0-85798 08862-1 <b>SRP:</b> \$24 <b>Also Available:</b> 375ml stelvin
<b>First Vintage:</b> 1984		<b>Cave Aged:</b> 17 months French and American oak barrels, 25% new		

Merlot from the Wetzel Family Estate has a reputation for being a big, complex wine. First produced in 1984, this has been a classically structured wine each year, often showing as much tannin as many Cabernet Sauvignons.

2022 kicked off with a lack of rain from the ongoing drought, followed by a warm spring, and early summer. Relatively mild summer temperatures allowed the grapes to mature evenly, although yields were a bit lighter than in prior vintages. Much like 2021, harvest began in early September, but ended on October 12th. 2022's longer hang time allowed the fruit to develop rich flavors while maintaining balanced acidity.

We prune our Merlot vines heavily and drop fruit several times during the growing season, so the remaining clusters ripen evenly. Winemaker Kevin Hall has found that fermenting Merlot at a slightly lower temperature than some of our other Bordeaux varieties maintains the lush flavors and structure. After fermentation, the wine was cave aged for 17 months in a combination of French and American oak barrels. The 2022 includes a touch of Malbec accentuating our Merlot's dark berry flavors, as well as Cabernet Sauvignon for additional complexity and layers of flavor.

This wine surprises many red wine lovers with its big flavors. There are spicy aromas of black cherry, plum, boysenberry, cassis, vanilla and oak in the glass. Our 2022 Merlot is powerful, full bodied wine with rich flavors of black cherry, plum, cassis and slight chocolate. This well-structured Merlot has beautiful balance and a long, textured finish.

This wine seems to surprise many red wine lovers, and we often hear it called a Merlot for Cabernet lovers. There are big aromas of black cherry, plum, cassis, vanilla and oak in the glass. This wine has broad mouth-feel with flavors of cherry, cassis, blackberry, plum and a hint of chocolate. This is a nicely balanced wine with a long, textured finish.

**Profile:**  
Serious Merlot- aromatic, textured, structured.

**Pairing Suggestions:**  
The fruit and structure of this wine pairs with a variety of big flavors. A family favorite is Beef Stroganoff. Classic pairings include lamb chops, duck, prime rib and filet. For a cold weather treat, try a glass with Mushroom Bisque.

**Accolades:**  
**2021: 93 points - James Suckling**  
**2021: Gold Medal - San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo 2025 International Wine Competition**

**ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS**  
2022 MERLOT

First planted on the gently sloping hillsides of our family's estate vineyards in the 1960s, our Merlot is a bold wine. We prune heavily and drop fruit several times during the growing season to get concentration in the grapes. After fermentation we barrel age the wine to add complexity. Rich aromas of black fruit hint at the intensity. There are multi-layered flavors of black cherry, blackberry and plum, along with a touch of spice and a long finish. Enjoy now, or age for a decade or more. The Wetzel Family Estate, located on the property settled in the 1840s by Alexander Valley namesake Cyrus Alexander, showcases the history, tradition and excellence of the region.

avvwine.com

GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) ACCORDING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL, WOMEN SHOULD NOT DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS. (2) CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE A CAR OR OPERATE MACHINERY, AND MAY CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS.

PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA

750ML CONTAINS 24.5 FL OZ

CA 07V

SONOMA COUNTY EARTH FRIENDLY

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**ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS**  
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