

SEBASTIANI

VINEYARDS & WINERY



2023

MERLOT

ALEXANDER VALLEY

TECHNICAL DETAILS

APPELLATION

Alexander Valley

COMPOSITION

94% Merlot, 6% Malbec

COOPERAGE

16 months in 35% new French oak

ALCOHOL

14.5%

TA

6.0 g/L

pH

3.53

BOTTLING DATE

March 5, 2025

CASES PRODUCED

728

VINEYARDS

The Alexander Valley is located north of the town of Healdsburg in Sonoma County. It is one of the warmer AVAs in the region making it the perfect spot for red Bordeaux grapes. The fruit for our 2023 Merlot comes from the Michalek Ranch and Sebastiani Mission vineyards.

VINTAGE

The winter of 2022-2023 saw record rainfall, ending years of drought conditions in Northern California. With below average temperatures in winter and spring, budbreak was significantly delayed. Continued cool weather through summer led to the harvest season beginning two weeks later than average which gave the grapes ample time to develop full flavors while maintaining vibrant acidity.

WINEMAKING

After harvest, we cold soaked the fruit prior to inoculation and fermentation in stainless steel tanks. Once complete, the wine was racked off the lees and put into 35% new French oak barrels for 16 months of aging.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The 2023 Alexander Valley Merlot opens with an inviting bouquet of ripe black cherry, beautifully layered with sophisticated hints of sweet barrel spice and vanilla. On the palate, the wine reveals a soft, juicy texture and finely polished tannins that carry concentrated dark cherry fruit accented by notes of sweet oak and caramel. A subtle savory herbal touch adds complexity, while the finish leaves lingering flavors of mocha and dark fruit. This expressive Merlot is a versatile partner for the table, pairing elegantly with whipped ricotta and crostini, a hearty tagliatelle bolognese, or an herb-crusted pork tenderloin.