



Set in Stone

CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2017 ALEXANDER VALLEY, CA

Set in Stone Cabernet comes from a 7 acre parcel just east of Geyserville. The vines are set in a stony volcanic slope bringing classic Cabernet flavors. However the winemaking is firmly set in the present providing a modern thinking to an ancient art.

I have worked this vineyard since 1990. This gentle east face slope and morning sun exposure vineyard, avoids the hot afternoon temperatures. East-facing slopes are a relatively rare occurrence in the Alexander Valley, as most are too steep to plant.

Lying at a 400' elevation, it runs cooler than those on the valley floor, ripening very slowly at first. Starting in September the morning fogs roll in and shroud the valley completely. This allows for longer than usual hang time for flavor and tannin ripeness rather than allowing the sugars to run away. The overall season is longer than the others though and the longer hang-times translate into more dark fruits giving more complexity and depth.

Set in Stone is cane-pruned, whose technique produces smaller berries, less dense clusters, and a more open canopy. The benefit is more even ripening. More black fruit, more depth, and more power is the signature of these much sought after east-facing sites.

Vintage: 2017

Appellation: Alexander Valley

Vineyard: Set in Stone

Yield: 3.5 tons / acre

Alcohol Level: 14.5%

Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauv

T.A.: 6.2g/l

pH: 3.65

Aging: Demptos Allier

100% French

16 months, 20% new

Racked: Gravity racked three times

Vintage Notes:

It felt more like a normal year in Sonoma County versus 2016. Bud break came a bit early despite the cool spring. A very mild summer followed and ripening was slow and steady. However we did receive two heat spikes in the vintage which pushed things along nicely. Again the hang time for the fruit while different to 2016 was again very good. Perfect for flavor and tannin development with sugars staying in check. The clusters filled out with berries growing more normal in size. It was a little later than the last few vintages and harvest was a little compressed. Great vintage overall once again.

Tasting Note:

This vineyard produces small berries and high skin to pulp ratio. As a result a refined and elegant wine capturing the best of what Alexander Valley offers. Deep purple in color & with aromas of red cherry and vanilla. The mouth has obvious full lush black plum fruit. This balanced Bordeaux style wine (lower alcohol and great structure) coats the palate in velvety rich flavors. The tannins are supple and last forever. Drink now or over the next 10 years.

Nick Goldschmidt
WINEMASTER