



ALEXANDER VALLEY
WINEGROWERS
SONOMA COUNTY

TRADE INFORMATION & FACTS

LOCATION

Discovered in **1840** by Cyrus Alexander. At the northern end of Sonoma County, the heart of Alexander Valley is **75 miles** north of San Francisco, **100 miles** west of Sacramento, **42 miles** to downtown Napa and **12 miles** to downtown Healdsburg.

ESTABLISHED

1984 Alexander Valley became an approved AVA (American Viticulture Area).

FIRST VINTAGE

1889 Lone Pine Vineyard by Shadrach Osborn (now Munselle Vineyards, residing within the same family).

TOTAL ACRES & VARIETALS

14,449 total acres.

Cabernet Sauvignon leads the way, followed by Chardonnay, Merlot, Zinfandel, Petit Verdot and Malbec.

OVERVIEW

Alexander Valley is the largest AVA (American Viticulture Area) in Sonoma County. Peaceful and rustic, yet elegant and refined with undiscovered back roads and hidden vineyards. Longstanding winegrowing and winemaking families have harvested and tended to the vines in these hills for decades. Stretching 22 miles long and 2 miles wide, defined by the Russian River winding through the west side and Mayacamas Mountains lining the eastern borders. We are the most narrow valley capturing a wide diversity of geographical elements. The warm climate, ideal soil chemistry and rolling hillside topography are most suited to Bordeaux grapes. The best Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec grapes thrive from the gentle benchland slopes to the hilltop mountain ridges. While Chardonnay and Zinfandel flourish in the valley floor.

TERRIOR

Weather & Microclimate - The general pattern for the greater region is Mediterranean, and is great for grape growing. The nearby Pacific ocean dominates the climate, resulting in wet, cool winters, and 30-50 inches of precipitation which recharges the aquifer while grapes are dormant. Summers are warm to hot and very arid, allowing for a slow depletion of soil moisture. The Alexander Valley is cooled from south to north by marine air moving in from the Pacific Ocean via the Petaluma wind gap and the Russian River valley. The combination of enough heat to ripen the crop but a big enough cool down to preserve freshness and acidity are keys to wine quality.

Geology & Soils - Soils are rocky and less fertile than the valley floor, and tend to be well drained, leading to naturally balanced canopies and lower yields. Alexander Valley soils are diverse from a long history of plate movements that pasted ancient seafloor on to the continent, deposited younger volcanic and sedimentary rock, and then tilted, raised, sank, and sliced it all up.

Elevation & Typography - Ranging from 400 to 2500 feet elevation. Stronger UV light causes thicker skins that add color, flavor, and structure. Late summer temperature inversion facilitates ripening despite lapse rate. Elevation adds another facet to the terroir of any site. Weathering, erosion, gravity, and water movement have further moved and settled things into a hodgepodge of soils that require testing and experience to match the right variety, rootstock, amendments and irrigation schemes to each site.



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WINERIES

30+ in total from large to small and all that lay inbetween:

Alexander Valley Vineyards
Arbios Cellars
Clos du Bois
Delorimioer Winery
Ferrari-Carano
Feild Stone Winery
Foley Sonoma
Francis Ford Coppola
Garden Creek Ranch
Hawkes
Hoot Owl Creek
J. Rickards
Jordan
Kelley & Young
Medlock Ames
Robert Young Estate
Rodney Strong
Seghesio
Silver Oak
Simi
Soda Rock
Starlite
Stonestreet
Stuhlmuller
Sutro
Trentadue
Trione
Virginia Dare
White Oak
William Gordon
Zialena

WINEGROWERS

82 total with winegrowing families from the original settlers.

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PO Box 248 Healdsburg CA 95448

Office (707) 431-2894 Email info@alexandervalley.org

www.alexandervalley.org