

2015

THE COUNSELOR

ALEXANDER VALLEY *RIVER PASS VINEYARD*

CABERNET SAUVIGNON



It is the land that provides the ultimate counsel. With more than 20 years of experience in the Alexander Valley, winemaker Nick Goldschmidt takes his time, listens to the land for guidance, interprets the elements, and shares the creation. The River Pass Vineyard is located just north of Healdsburg in Sonoma County. Nick Goldschmidt has been working this site for 15 years. The site is divided into three sections, north, middle, and south and faces southeast. It receives gentle morning sun which permits longer hang-times and greater flavor development. The three blocks are fermented separately and then blended for best expression. Alexander Valley reds typically show red fruits in the nose and notes of herbs.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

VINTAGE:	2015
APPELLATION:	100% Alexander Valley
VINEYARD:	River Pass, near Healdsburg
LAND:	Hillside and Benchland, clay loam soil
NORTH BLOCK:	Hand harvested at 135 days (for richness)
MIDDLE BLOCK:	Hand harvested at 140 days (for depth)
SOUTH BLOCK:	Hand harvested at 145 days (for elegance)
VARIETALS:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
CLONE:	7
HARVEST DATE:	October 9-19, 2015
YIELD:	3.0 tons per acre, by hand
pH:	3.6
T.A.	6.3g/L
ALC%:	14.5%
FERMENT:	Small batch, eight weeks maceration on the skins
AGING:	14 months in barrel
BARRELS:	15% new Demptos French Oak, Central France
FINING:	No
CASES MADE:	2,068

VINTAGE NOTES:

Without question a most memorable vintage for Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. Very refined with deep, almost opaque, purple-black color and outstanding flavor development. We were challenged this year by a warm winter, a cool spring, rain at bloom and a hot July. The continued effects from the lack of rain contributed to lower yields--small clusters came in with some of the smallest berries we've ever seen. Thankfully, they were packed with color and flavor.

TASTING NOTE:

Big and lush with gorgeous blueberry and blackberry fruit on the nose. Also shows dark mocha and spice notes. Juicy raspberry, black currant, and plum flavors are nicely layered over very refined tannins and subtle, toasty oak. Finishes with dark chocolate.

Nick Goldschmidt
WINEMASTER