



SILVER OAK

2002 ALEXANDER VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

VINTAGE 2002

APPELLATION Alexander Valley

COMPOSITION 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

BOTTLE SIZES 750 ml 3 L Double Magnum
1.5 L Magnum 6 L Imperial

ALCOHOL 13.6%

VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

The 2002 vintage was one of the most compressed in our three decades of winemaking. From start to finish, it lasted 32 days. Temperatures were moderate for most of the season and budbreak and veraison occurred normally. On Labor Day weekend, the region experienced a typical Northern California heat wave, with temperatures rising into the low 100's. Atypically, there was very low relative humidity for the next six weeks, resulting in an extraordinary concentration in the fruit that changed the character of the vintage.

Our Alexander Valley harvest started on September 13th. Not surprisingly, we found that yields were 10 to 20% below our projections. Due to continued heat, a harvest that normally would have lasted six to eight weeks was completed in four. This made managing the fermenting room a bit challenging, but we were saved by the fact that the crop was much smaller than anticipated. We finished crushing on October 8th.

BLENDING AND AGING

Our 2002 Alexander Valley, a blend of wine from several vineyards, is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. We blended the vineyard lots in early 2003 and transferred the wine from tank to 50% new and 50% once-used American oak barrels for aging. We blend prior to barreling to achieve a balance of the wine's natural elements, such as fruit and tannin, before they are influenced by oak. We age the wine in barrel for approximately 25 months to harmonize its components, and another 15 months in bottle before its release.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2002 Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is a rich, profound wine that beautifully balances concentration with finesse. It has a dark, ruby color and aromas of blackberry jam, soy sauce, violets and dark chocolate, with hints of cedar and cinnamon. The first impression in the mouth is one of smoothness and roundness. The wine offers a seamless, harmonious progression of fruit, chocolate and black tea tones, leading to an extremely long finish with supple tannins and echoes of berry fruit. Properly cellared, it should provide drinking pleasure until 2027.

RELEASE DAY July 29, 2006