



Welcome to our way of life

Our Mission

Since 1846, Alexander Valley has produced wines but the transformation to Cabernet Sauvignon and other noble varieties began in the 1960's. The Alexander Valley Winegrowers invite you to taste our wines, spend time in the grandeur of our valley and celebrate our way of life.

The Alexander Valley

The Alexander Valley occupies a stunning corner of Sonoma County is home to more than 40 wineries and over 200 grape growers.

Alexander Valley, while not the largest American Viticulture Area in Sonoma County, has over 15,000 acres of grapes. Located at the northern end of Sonoma County, the Alexander Valley is 22 miles long and varies in width from two to seven miles. On the hillsides to the east and west, and adjacent to the beautiful Russian River winding along the valley floor, the valley is home to a diversity of microclimates. Cabernet Sauvignon occupies the bench lands and hillsides while Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc dominate the valley floor.

Our world-class Cabernet Sauvignon grapes thrive from the valley all the way up to the rolling hillsides and mountain ridges. The gravelly loam soils straddling the Russian River allow Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Merlot fruit to flourish. Alexander Valley is also home to Zinfandel.

Our laid back but sophisticated lifestyle features friendly winemakers and growers who are proud and happy to share their winemaking experiences with each other, as well as with visitors passing through.

Visiting the Alexander Valley

Alexander Valley is almost as popular for bikers as it is for winemakers and grape growers. Its proximity to Healdsburg shops and restaurants, together with roaming country roads, beautiful vistas and intriguing places to stop make Alexander Valley a perfect place to visit. The quaint town of Geyserville to the north features popular restaurants, galleries and unique tasting rooms, while half way down Highway 128 visitors will find the Jimtown store, a unique throwback to a more simple time, featuring delicious food, antiques and unique gifts.

Just a short drive from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge (1 hour North on Highway 101), the Alexander Valley and its wineries, growers, vineyards and warm hospitality await. It's easy to get here, hard to go home.

Alexander Valley Distinguishing Features

Our location at the most northeastern corner of Sonoma County affects our maritime climate mixing coastal and inland elements that enable long and even growing seasons. The low pressure created by the warm temperatures draws the cool marine breezes into the valley and at night fog from the Pacific Ocean flows up the Russian River, often lingering until mid-day, keeping the vineyards cool.

The Russian River, which runs through the entire appellation and ancient volcanoes created our soils. Alexander Valley is home to flood plains, benchlands, and foothills that rise from the river to the mountainous ridges of the Mayacamas Mountains. As a result, the soil types in the Alexander Valley range from volcanic ash to gravelly alluvial fans to silty sedimentary soils, all depending upon where you are along the 22 mile range north to south or the 200 to 2,000 feet in growing elevation.

The presence of the Russian River creates a thermocline as one moves up the long valley, changing temperatures and contributing to the many microclimates in the region.

Alexander Valley Leading Varietals

Certainly Cabernet Sauvignon is our leading variety with 6,000+ acres planted, out of the total of 15,000 acres. The leading white variety is Chardonnay, which is approximately 2,000 acres.

The Alexander Valley features a long and even growing season for our Cabernet Sauvignon promoting even ripeness. As a result, Alexander Valley Cabernets offer classic fruit forward, supple flavors with characters of boysenberry and black cherry together with rich, structured tannins.

Because Alexander Valley is further inland from the coast than other Sonoma AVAs (we're approximately 30 miles from the ocean) we get the summer heat, which contributes to big, ripe and opulent wines – especially the Chardonnay, which ripens earlier than most of Sonoma County and features classic stone fruit characteristics of white peach, pear and red apple.

The Facts:

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| Wineries | 44 member wineries |
| Vineyards | 15,000 acres planted to premium wine grapes |
| Growers | More than 200 grape growers, many of whom tend vineyards that have been in their families for generations |
| AVA | Recognized as a premium grape-growing region since the late 1800s, and established as an American Viticultural Area (AVA) in 1984 |
| Location | Located in northern Sonoma County, the Alexander Valley is approximately 30 miles from the Pacific Ocean and an hour north of the San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. |
| Directions | <p>From the San Francisco Bay Area, drive north on Highway 101 to Healdsburg. At the north-end of town, look for the turnoff to Alexander Valley Road.</p> <p>From Napa, follow Highway 128 through Knight's Valley to Alexander Valley.</p> <p>From points north, follow Highway 101 to Geyserville, and look for the signs to Highway 128.</p> |
| Events | The 13 th annual Taste Alexander Valley event will take place in early summer in 2010. Watch for ticket sales in early February. |
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