

2013 Estate Red Wine

The alchemy and artistry of blending is something that challenges and motivates us as winemakers. Taking individual varietal components and then blending them into a seamless whole while ensuring that their characteristics are well represented. Our 2013 Estate Red Wine is a delightful example of hitting it on all cylinders – flavor, color, texture, depth, finish, and overall impression. Of course, being blessed with the fruit from our Bell Mountain Estate Ranch and our experienced vineyard crew (several have been with us for more than a decade) who meticulously tend the vineyard rows to ensure optimum ripeness and fruit flavor, make things more manageable. We selected several blocks from the Alexander Valley side of our estate to create this final blend.

This wine is rich, dense, and the palate follows through on the nose's promise. Aromatics of chocolate-covered cherries, black licorice, and rosemary predominate. There is good strength up front with flavors of cranberry, black cherry, dried black tea leaves, and a touch of graphite. It is refreshing and has a juicy mid-palate with a vanilla coffee toffee finish. The tannins are seamlessly integrated making this wine a classic example of why a blend can be so good.

Vintage

2013 was another banner growing season in Sonoma County and our vineyards here on Bell Mountain were no exception. The growing season started with a dry spring and provided consistent, moderate temperatures that allowed our grapes to slowly progress to optimal ripeness. Fruit quality and abundance were exceptional in 2013, and we began making wine with the very best building blocks: grapes that were evenly ripe and expressed true varietal character with balanced acidity. Although the season started slowly, it ended with a bang. Warm temperatures in August and September accelerated ripening, and every last block of our vineyard was harvested by October 16th, about three weeks earlier than usual.

Profile

Appellation	Alexander Valley
Harvest	September 3 – October 16, 2013
Cooperage	14 months in French oak
Blend	71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec, 1% Syrah
Alcohol	14.8%
Brix pH TA	26.7 – 28.3° 3.7 6.0 g/L
Bottling	January 26, 2015
Production	2337 Cases