

## 2015 WINEMAKER SERIES ALEXANDER VALLEY RED WINE RIDGELINE VINEYARD

Our Winemaker Don LaBorde, first fell in love with the wines from Alexander Valley's acclaimed *Ridgeline Vineyard* years ago. A dramatic, high-elevation hillside vineyard, Ridgeline is ideal both for Cabernet Sauvignon and for Tempranillo, which is why it was chosen as the source for this alluring Sonoma County Red Blend. Inspired by the iconic blends of Spain, this robust, full-bodied red combines the vivid violet and white pepper qualities of exceptional Tempranillo with the depth and richness of Cabernet Sauvignon.

## In the Vineyards - 2015

Other than being approximately a month earlier than usual, our 2015 harvest was smooth and successful, yielding exceptional quality grapes. To allow us ample opportunities for blending, we harvested 16 different grape varieties over the course of 12 weeks. During this period, Mother Nature provided heat to speed up ripening when we needed it, and equally well-timed cooler temperatures when the vines needed a respite. The extended harvest allowed us to pick all varieties at optimal ripeness. As a result, our white grapes show lovely aromatics and varietal character, and our reds show beautiful depth and concentration.

## **Sensory Profile**

Taking inspiration from the great Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon blends of Spain, this robust and beautifully structured wine offers generous aromas of currant, saddle leather, vanilla and chocolate underscored by notes of black pepper and allspice. Both the sweet and savory notes are echoed on the palate, where big, rustic tannins promise a long life in the cellar.

Winemaker Don LaBorde

### Composition

52% Tempranillo, 48% Cabernet Sauvignon

#### **Harvest Information**

Appellation: Alexander Valley, Sonoma County Harvest Dates: August 27 – September 10

### Aging & Oak

18 months in oak 100% French oak 50% new oak, 50% second vintage

# **Production and Technical Data**

Average Sugar at Harvest: 26.6° Brix Alcohol: 14.5%

pH: 3.87