



**Wattle Creek 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon
Alexander Valley, Sonoma County**

Winemaker Notes

Immediately present in this wine are seductive layers of fleshy black cherries, Cassis, dark chocolate and fresh raspberries which are complimented with dusty, tobacco leaf aromas; these are classic Cabernet Sauvignon notes. I find that when you smell a wine you start to anticipate how it will taste based upon its aroma. This wine delivers on all its aromatic potential. It is young, fresh and dense, but also has a tremendous richness with tiers of dark berries, dark chocolate, and Cassis. This wine is one to enjoy now and one to lie down, it should age beautifully!

Vintage & Winemaking

The 2012 Vintage was a fairly average harvest in California in terms of bud break, flowering, and fruit-set through veraison (where the berries soften and change color). The vines set a large crop, so we had to drop fruit off each vine to suppress yields and thus keep the quality high! As it turned out, the 2012 vintage was the largest California has ever known. All varietals had record or near record yields last year. Despite the copious fruit and thinning, the overall quality of the fruit that remained was high, across the board.

Mother Nature cooperated weather-wise and we sailed from veraison to harvest almost unscathed. There was a late arriving storm that passed through wine country the final 2 weeks of harvest which forced everyone's hand a bit to pick the remaining fruit. Growers and Wineries alike were not taking a lot of chances after the rain packed '10 and '11 vintages and most opted to pick their remaining fruit.

The grapes were fermented warm and the tanks were pumped over three times a day for color and tannin extraction. Due to the richness of the vintage almost exclusively free run juice made up this bottling of Cabernet Sauvignon and we allowed for extended ageing in French Oak Barrels to tame the boisterous nature of the 2012 vintage. This Cabernet Sauvignon aged for 17 months before bottling.

Appellation	Alexander Valley	
Percentage breakdown	Cabernet Sauvignon	88%
	Malbec	10%
	Petit Verdot	2%
Vintage	2012	
Oak Maturation	17 months	
New Oak	55 %	
French oak	100 %	
Alcohol	14.6 %	
Production	1450 Cases	