



## Wattle Creek 2013 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

2013 was a classic California vintage an early bloom followed by a heat wave gave the vineyards a kick start and has some worried we may be picking by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Fortunately some cooler weather prevailed and allowed for the extended hang time needed to make a truly excellent vintage. By late August the warmer summer weather returned and allowed for some beautiful sun kissed fruit to reach peak maturity.

The grapes were fermented warm and the tanks were pumped over 4-5 times a day for color and tannin extraction. The wines were gently drained from their skins and the balance of juice trapped in the skins was lightly pressed away. The resulting individual lots of Cabernet, Merlot, and Petit Verdot were aged separately and blended just before bottling. We put the free run wine (drained out of the fermenter and not pressed with the grapes) to all French Oak barrels. This Bordeaux blend aged for 16 months in barrel before bottling.

<b>Appellation:</b>	Alexander Valley
<b>Variety/Blend:</b>	88% Cabernet Sauvignon , 7% Petit Verdot, 5% Merlot
<b>Vintage:</b>	2013
<b>Oak Maturation:</b>	16 months
<b>New Oak:</b>	40 % new, 30% -1 YO, 30% older
<b>French oak:</b>	100%
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.5%
<b>Production:</b>	750 cases