

*La Storia*

MERLOT

Block 500

ALEXANDER VALLEY ESTATE

2019



### WINEMAKER NOTES

The 2019 season had an interesting mix of conditions to say the least! We had a lot of rain in March and in May, fire in October with evacuations and power outages, other than that the quality was spectacular! The only grapes not harvested before the fire started was our small block of Montepulciano, but we managed to harvest before the fire became more serious. Otherwise the growing season was relatively mild and long without any heat waves or other surprises. The crop yields were lower than 2018 and the quality was high.

We harvested the 2019 Merlot Block 500 grapes on October 7th. The average sugar at harvest was 25.5 Brix- ideal for making high quality, age worthy wines. Post pressing the wine was raked twice and pumped into 24% new, mostly French and other European oak barrels, the rest went into older, mixed barrels. Majority of the wine for the final La Storia blend came from Block 500 with few barrels added from block 510. Our 2019 La Storia Merlot is and has been consistently fine example of the ability of this classic Bordeaux variety to make solid, tasty and age worthy wines. The main aromas and flavors are of dark cherry, plums, a bit of black licorice and herbs. The new oak barrels contribute a touch of vanilla, brown sugar, cocoa dust, and toast. On the mouth the wine is soft and viscous, balancing the acidity and the tannins well for such a young wine. The finish is long and soft with suggestion of sweetness backed by ripe tannins. This wine will age well and will reward your patience if stored well in the next 3-6 years. Cheers!

### TECHNICAL NOTES

#### AGING

22 months in 24% new French and Euro-pean oak

#### VARIETAL

99% Merlot  
1% Other

#### APPELLATION

Alexander Valley Estate

#### WINEMAKER

Miro Tcholakov

#### PRODUCTION

2,179 Cases

#### BOTTLED

August, 2021

#### RELEASE DATE

March, 2022

MIRO TCHOLAKOV

#### ALCOHOL

14.8%

#### RESIDUAL SUGAR

0.4%

#### pH

3.59

#### TOTAL ACID

66g/100ml