

La Storia

MERLOT

Block 500

ALEXANDER VALLEY ESTATE

2020



WINEMAKER NOTES

It would be easy to say that 2020 grape harvest season was challenging but that would be a great understatement. Between the fires, the smoke and COVID-19 safety guidelines, stress levels were at all-time high for all winemakers throughout the West Coast. I have 20 harvests at Trentadue (30 total in California) under my belt, but this one was absolutely the most challenging vintage of my career (the previous was 2019). The vintage started early and finished earlier than usual. An short-we are glad the vintage is over, and the wines are safe in the barrels. So far none of the wines show any unusual taste or smell, as a matter of fact due to the small crop, the wines are very concentrated and lush.

We harvested the 2020 Merlot Block 500 grapes on September 12th. The average sugar at harvest was 25.5 Brix- ideal for making high quality, age worthy wines. Post pressing the wine was racked twice and pumped into 17% 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 2020 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

23 months in 17% new French and Euro-pean oak

VARIETAL

96% Merlot
3% Zinfandel
1% Cabernet

APPELLATION

Alexander Valley Estate

WINEMAKER

Miro Tcholakov

PRODUCTION

1,498 Cases

BOTTLED

August, 2022

RELEASE DATE

December, 2022

MIRO TCHOLAKOV

ALCOHOL

14.8%

RESIDUAL SUGAR

0.3%

pH

3.47

TOTAL ACID

62g/100ml