

La Storia

MERLOT

Block 500

ALEXANDER VALLEY ESTATE

2021



The 2021 harvest year was near perfect for growing grapes and a second year of a lighter than normal crop. The berry size was smaller than average delivering exceptional flavors, intense color, beautiful grapes, fruit forward and ripe. The season started early and cold and it was void of long, lingering heatwaves leading to relatively early to normal harvest dates with most grapes ripening at the same time. Unusually our Zin ripened later than our young block of Cabernet. Overall, we had about 10% lower yields but unevenly dispersed between the varieties with Merlot and Zin being notably lower than normal.

We harvested the 2021 Merlot Block 500 grapes on September 17th. 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 barrels. The majority of the wine for the final La Storia blend came from Block 500 with few barrels added from block 510.

Our 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 4-7 years.

Cheers!

#### TECHNICAL NOTES

##### AGING

21 months in 22% new French and American oak

##### VARIETAL

79% Merlot

21% Malbec

##### APPELLATION

Alexander Valley Estate

##### WINEMAKER

Miro Tcholakov

##### PRODUCTION

1,800 Cases

##### BOTTLED

June, 2023

##### RELEASE DATE

October, 2023

MIRO TCHOLAKOV

##### ALCOHOL

14.8%

##### RESIDUAL SUGAR

0.25%

##### pH

3.44

##### TOTAL ACID

62g/100ml