



PATHFINDER
GUARDIAN VINEYARD
CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2013
ALEXANDER VALLEY, CA

Pathfinder Cabernet Sauvignon comes from a 3 acre parcel just west of Route 101, between Geyserville and Cloverdale. This mountain vineyard faces east and avoids hot afternoon temperatures. East-facing slopes are a relatively rare occurrence in the Alexander Valley, as most of the valley is either heavily forested or too steep to plant. The *Guardian Vineyard* is cane-pruned, a technique which produces smaller berries, less dense clusters, and a more open canopy. The benefit is more even ripening and lower yields. More black fruit, more depth, and more power is the signature of these much sought after east-facing sites.

Vintage: 2013

Appellation: Alexander Valley

Vineyard: Guardian

Elevation: 800'

Yield: 2 tons / acre

Release Date: Dec 2015

Alcohol Level: 14.3%

Composition: 100%

Cabernet Sauvignon

T.A.: 5.6 g/l

pH: 3.68

Aging: Demptos Allier

70% French

30% American

16 months, 80% new

Racked: Gravity racked three times

Production: 5 barrels

Vintage Notes:

2013 represents another classic Alexander Valley vintage. The growing season got off to a fast start in April and never really slowed down until mid-September. Harvest was about normal with yields slightly lower than 2012.

The *Guardian Vineyard* is a different site than most and we must look at it more closely. The vineyard is high up in the hills and runs cooler than those on the valley floor, so it ripens very slowly at first. Come September though, the morning fog rolls in and shrouds the valley completely. *Guardian* is above the fogline and gets abundant sunshine for the remainder of the season. The overall season is longer than the others though. Its long hang-times translate into more complexity and depth.

Tasting Note:

Ripe blackberry and black cherry fruit aromas, pronounced French oak; juicy red and black fruit on the palate with blackberry, blueberry, cassis, and dark chocolate flavors; smooth and supple tannins, expansive mouthfeel, toasty oak finish.

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