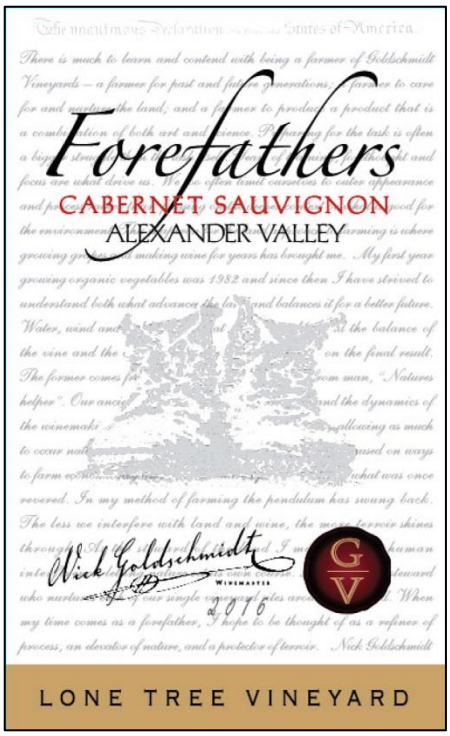
FOREFATHERS

LONE TREE VINEYARD

ALEXANDER VALLEY, CA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016



Vintage: 2016

Appellation: Alexander Valley

Vineyard: Lone Tree

Yield: 1.8 tons / acre

Alcohol Level: 14.8%

Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauv

T.A.: 6.2g/l

pH: 3.65

Aging: Demptos Allier

100% French

16 months, 80% new

Racked: Gravity racked three times

Production: 324 cases produced.

Forefathers *Lone Tree* Cabernet Sauvignon comes from a 3 acre parcel just north of Geyserville. This mountain vineyard faces east and avoids hot afternoon temperatures. East-facing slopes are a relatively rare occurrence in the Alexander Valley, as most are either heavily forested or too steep to plant.

Lying at an 800' elevation, it runs cooler than those on the valley floor and ripens very slowly at first. Starting in September the morning fogs roll in and shroud the valley completely. *Lone Tree* is above the fog line and gets abundant sunshine for the remainder of the season. The overall season is longer than the others though and the longer hang-times translate into more complexity and depth.

Lone Tree's key is being dry farmed and cane-pruned, Technique's which produce smaller berries, less dense clusters, and a more open canopy. The benefit is more even ripening. More black fruit, more depth, and more power is the signature of these much sought after east-facing sites.

Vintage Notes:

Similar to 2014 & 2015, the 2016 is another fine vintage in a string of great vintages dating back to 2010. The 2016 vintage was again early with yields coming in slightly lower but bigger than 2014 & 2015. The season was even and received more water, thanks to a great winter of rain in 2015. The cool nights really put this exceptional vintage over the top.

Tasting Note:

The dry farming means small berries and high skin-to-pulp ratio. As a result Forefathers is a refined and elegant wine capturing the best of what Alexander Valley offers. Deep purple with aromas of red cherry and vanilla. The mouth has very lush black plum fruit. This balanced Bordeaux style wine (lower alcohol and great structure) coats the palate in velvety rich flavors. The tannins are supple and last forever.

Nick Goldschmidt
WINEMASTER