

CHELSEA *Goldschmidt*

GUIDESTONE RISE
MERLOT
ALEXANDER VALLEY

2021



The Story

This merlot shows a bond that illustrates similarities and differences. It is Nick's collaboration with his oldest daughter Chelsea who was brought up around wine and vineyards. Much like Chelsea, this merlot, made in a cabernet style, resonates with elegance. It is a wine to be enjoyed around a quiet dinner table or at a raging party.

The Vineyard

Guidestone Rise is a beautiful vineyard along Route 128, just east of Geyserville. The exceptional combination of climate, soil, and exposure stamps its mark on this classic varietal. This estate vineyard is well-suited to growing deeply concentrated, powerful Merlot. River soils of sandy loam and good drainage promote full grape maturity yet discourage the overly-vigorous Merlot from producing too high of yields.

The Vintage

The 2021 vintage was one of the longest ripening seasons for the past two decades. Seasons are starting earlier due to a lack of water, creating early warm Spring soil temperatures. This is evened out with the August cooling trend at veraison. However, the heat spike over Mother's Day weekend restricted the berry expansion. Yields were lighter with small berries and small clusters. All this led to unusually dense concentration.

The Wine

Deep purple hue. Tantalizing aromas of ripe cherry, blueberry and black plum. Complexed with a hint of vanilla oak but very vibrant. The mouth has immediate fine-grained tannins and a lively complexity. Made in the style of Pomerol, right bank Bordeaux, it is a lovely expression of Alexander Valley Merlot. Flavors are rich and fleshy, with luxurious layers of black berry, red licorice, fig compote, blueberry and crushed rose petal flowing to a long, elegant finish. Lots of tension and totally fruit driven.

The Scores

2021: 92	JAMES SUCKLING
2021: 92	WINE ENTHUSIAST
2021: 90	Wine Spectator
2020: 91	JAMES SUCKLING
2019: 92	JAMES SUCKLING



Nick and Chelsea



Location of the Guidestone Rise vineyard in Alexander Valley



Merlot clusters hang in the vineyard prior to harvest

