La Storia

MERLOT

Block 500

ALEXANDER VALLEY ESTATE

2023



The 2023 Vintage was one of the coolest and latest vintages I've seen in the last two decades. The rain was much needed and with more than 55 inches was double than normal and helped replenish the reservoirs and nourish the vines. In February the temperatures dropped below freezing and we had snow on the valley floor! The precipitation also brought extra canopy growth and led to 5% to 15% higher yields for most varieties. Our viticulture team was diligent in thinning and doing crop adjustments where necessary. This was key to achieving a balanced crop and promoting ripening in a very late year. Overall, the entire season was late from bud break through verasion and finally ripening and harvest. As a result of the long and slow ripening the 2023 vintage wines are deeply flavorful, beautifully colored, dense and concentrated with moderate alcohol. The tannin, structure and acidity of these wines resemble some of the best European vintages. The 2023 vintage will be most likely one of the most memorable and age-worthy we had in a long time.

We harvested the 2023 Merlot Block 500 grapes on October 7th. The average sugar at harvest was 24.5 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 to the complexity by adding a touch of vanilla, 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!

Miro Tcholakov

TECHNICAL NOTES

AGING

22 months in 29% new barrels (15% French and other European oak , 14% American oak), the rest aged in older oak barrels.

ALCOHOL

14.5%

VARIETAL

81% Merlot,

14% Malbec, 3% Cab. Sauvig, 1% Cab Franc, 1% Syrah

PRODUCTION

2648 Cases

RESIDUAL SUGAR

0.4%

APPELLATION

Alexander Valley Estate

BOTTLED

August , 2025

pH

3.51

WINEMAKER

Miro Tcholakov

RELEASE DATE

February 2026

TOTAL ACID

5.6 g/L

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