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Cellar Club July 2024



2021 Blue Rock Baby Blue Cabernet Blend- Alexander Valley, CA

Alexander Valley starts just north of the small, Knights Valley, and is just a few minutes' drive from the Napa town of Calistoga. It is Sonoma County's hottest AVA. But the Russian River, which runs through the valley, creates cooler pockets and its soft, alluvial soil is ideal for grape growing, especially Cabernet Sauvignon. Blue Rock is a historic, private destination in the heart of the Sonoma/Napa wine country. The winery, vineyard, and gardens were established in the 1880s by Italian immigrants. Originally named Villa Maria, the winery did not survive Prohibition. The name originates from the soil studded with blue pebbles, rocks, and boulders of serpentine. The serpentine rock contributes to the unique flavor and aromatic profile of the wines deriving from the vineyard. This wine is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 3% Syrah, 1% Cabernet Franc and 1% Malbec. It begins with polished aromas of blackberry, dark currant, pencil shavings, hints of peppercorn, tilled earth, cedar and vanilla bean that sing of an absolutely brilliant young wine. Rich flavors of both black and red fruits, savory spices, hints of black tea and espresso, and just the right touch of toasty oak in the background suggest this beauty will enjoy a long and celebrated evolution.

Pairings: This wine pairs well with beef, lamb, poultry, and game. Bordeaux blend wines also pair well with savory dishes that feature mushrooms, herbs, and spices. Other options include aged cheeses, charcuterie, and dark chocolate desserts.

2020 Jeff Runquist Petite Sirah, Salman Vineyard- Yolo County, CA

Jeff started his adventure in the wine industry in 1977 with Seagram's at their Paul Masson Sherry Cellars in Madera while studying enology at UC Davis. Upon graduating, he worked in the cellar at Montevina in Amador County's Shenandoah Valley and became winemaker in 1982. He moved to J. Lohr for 3 yrs. before striking out on his own in 1990 with his first harvest in 1997. In 2006 he opened his tasting room and consolidated all of his winemaking to Amador. The winery was voted CA winery of the year in 2023. Petite Sirah grown in the Clarksburg appellation has what Jeff calls all of the assets and none of the liabilities of Petite Sirah; big flavors and soft tannins. His style of Petite Sirah has been embraced by the marketplace and been their bestselling wine for over a decade. It has a deep purple color with a magenta hue. The aromas feature ripe concentrated dark fruits; cassis, boysenberry and black raspberry. Aged in 100% new French Oak, the bouquet delivers scents of mocha, malt, and dark chocolate. On the palate, supple savory flavors of concentrated black fruits meld with those of mocha and sweet vanilla laden toasted oak. A wine with a viscosity that coats the mouth with a luscious creamy texture

Pairings: Pair this Petite Sirah with hearty stews, braised meats, roasted sirloin steak, vegetable pasta, aged cheese, Brie, Indian food /curry, grilled pork chops, or chocolate.