



ROTH

WINEMAKER'S NOTE

2008 ALEXANDER VALLEY MERLOT

ROTH ESTATE IS COMMITTED TO MAKING WINES WITH THE TRUEST AND BEST EXPRESSION OF THE DIVERSE AND IDYLIC GROWING CONDITIONS IN SONOMA COUNTY. OUR 2008 MERLOT HAS THE RICH AND ELEGANT FRUIT FLAVORS AND SOFT TANNINS CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS AVA'S SURROUNDING HILLSIDES — BLUEBERRY PIE, BLACK CURRANT AND CASSIS, ACCENTED BY HINTS OF CEDAR AND NUTMEG. AGED 18 MONTHS IN SEASONED FRENCH AND AMERICAN OAK BARRELS, THIS LIMITED-PRODUCTION MERLOT WAS GENTLY FINED, YET NOT FILTERED TO PRESERVE DELICATE FLAVOR AND STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS. ACCESSIBLE, FRUIT FORWARD AND READY TO DRINK UPON RELEASE, THE 2008 ALEXANDER VALLEY MERLOT WILL BENEFIT FROM THREE TO FOUR YEARS OF AGING.

WINERY BACKGROUND

Roth Estate is a family-owned winery dedicated to crafting full-flavored wines grown in exemplary Sonoma County vineyards. Beginning in 2001, Roth committed to producing classic Bordeaux varietals in Alexander Valley. A decade later the winery expanded its winemaking to include cool-climate varietals from the Sonoma Coast.

2008 VINTAGE

The vines woke up to a very dry and frosty spring. Summer was mild with a toasty August that encouraged ripening and led to a mid-September harvest. Yields on Merlot were low and the fruit, packed with varietal character and concentration, arrived at the winery in pristine condition.

COMPOSITION & ANALYSIS

97.5% Merlot

2.5% Petite Sirah

Titrateable Acidity 0.61g/100ml

pH 3.65

Alcohol by Volume 14.4%

1,200 cases (48 barrels) produced





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RECENT ACCLAIM

2008 ALEXANDER VALLEY MERLOT

TIM FISH, THE WINE SPECTATOR

88 Points/Very Good

A Wine With Special Qualities

“Late summer has a sort of swift momentum that always leaves me unprepared for Labor Day. For the Fourth of July and Memorial Day, I’m mulling over the menu a week or two in advance, but after the long, hot chaos of summer, I lack the gumption to give Labor Day much thought.

And yet the heady aroma of red meat or pork sizzling on the grill is one of my favorite addictions, so I know the wine I’m drinking will be red. Like the menu, I doubt I’ll fuss over the wine either. I want something that’s easy to drink, a no-brainer. Recently I tasted what seems to be a likely candidate: Roth Merlot Alexander Valley 2008 (\$20).

Roth is the value-oriented second label for Lancaster Estate. The grapes come from the estate’s vineyards in the eastern hills of southern Alexander Valley, and like many of the best Merlots from this part of Sonoma County, the wine has good structure and soft tannins. The 2008 is supple, rich and packed with black cherry fruit, plus toasty vanilla and brown spices.”

Wine Spectator Online/August 31, 2010