



“Forward dark berry flavors with accents of chocolate and bold, spicy oak give this powerful wine a lot to offer for near term enjoyment, but classic mountain fruit structure will provide the patient with plenty of reward over the next 5 to 10 years.”

Rick Sayre

RICK SAYRE, WINEMAKER

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

WINEMAKER: Rick Sayre

BLEND: 98% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Merlot

APPELLATION: Alexander Valley

ALCOHOL: 14.1%

TOTAL ACIDITY: 0.63 gm/100ml

pH: 3.59

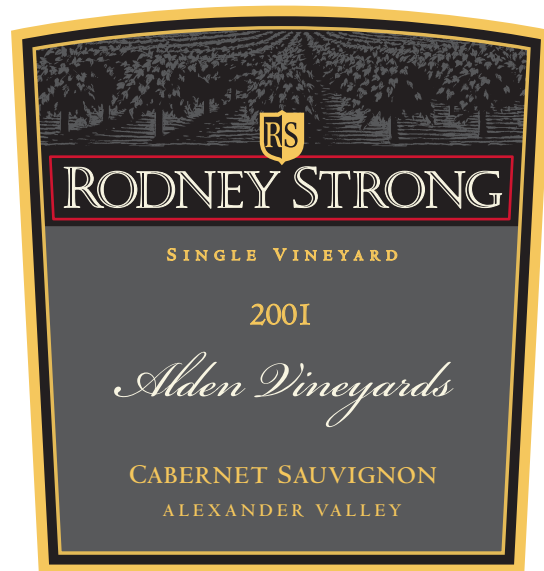
RESIDUAL SUGAR: 0.04%

FERMENTATION / CELLARING:

28 months in oak, 59% American, 41% French

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2001
RODNEY STRONG VINEYARDS
 ALEXANDER VALLEY
ALDEN VINEYARDS
CABERNET SAUVIGNON



TASTING NOTES

Perched at over 1200 feet, the Alden Vineyard is a unique environment to grow wine. At this elevation, spring comes later, cooler, and, longer, naturally limiting berry growth size. The resulting smaller berries affect the overall skin to juice ratio in a manner that potentially makes for deep colors, powerful structure, and tremendous concentration of fruit flavors. The challenge, however, is getting the grapes mature before the late season rains. Fortunately elevation comes through a second time, yet in a different way. When autumn's longer nights fills the valley with moist, cool air and fog, the higher Alden Vineyard stays above the inversion layer, remaining quite warm throughout the night, allowing for the ongoing enzymatic activity that ultimately matures the crop.

Winemaker Rick Sayre's many years of winemaking experience in Sonoma County allowed him to quickly identify the potential of this site for greatness. After the first vintage in 1981, grapes from the Alden Vineyard have ended up in several of our programs, including our Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon. Finally, starting in 1996, Rick decided to honor the individual nature of this vineyard with a single vineyard bottling.

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