

Stuhlmuller Vineyard

Stuhlmuller Vineyards 2013 Alexander Valley Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Proprietor	Fritz Stuhlmuller	Winemaker	Leo Hansen
Vineyards	Stuhlmuller Vineyards is located at the southern edge of the Alexander Valley, where it converges with two other highly regarded Sonoma County appellations, Chalk Hill and the Russian River Valley. On its eastern edge, the 150-acre vineyard borders the Russian River. Situated in a location that is part river benchlands and part hillside, the vineyard benefits from its alluvial gravel soils and the more rocky soils of the hillside sections.		
The Clones	The fruit for this Cabernet emphasizes three clones, from seven separate blocks, with vines ranging in age from approximately 10 to more than 25 years old. From the river benchland we use our clone 337 for its fruit-forward black cherry flavors. Hillside clone 7 fruit adds floral layers and classic Cabernet cassis and cherry elements. Our oldest plantings, a field selection from the Belle Terre Vineyard, provide tannic concentration and blue fruit notes. The final wine reflects the diversity of our vineyard.		
The Vintage	2013 was a classic California growing season. While both flowering and veraison came early and fast, with mostly moderate temperatures, and only a couple of modest heat spikes during the summer, everything ripened very evenly. A combination of plenty of cool foggy mornings and afternoon sunshine, combined with big swings between day and nighttime temperatures produced perfectly ripe fruit with excellent natural acidity.		
Winemaking	8 individual fermentations were done, using a mix of open-top tanks, and closed-top tanks where the must was pumped over. The closed-top tanks added to palate texture, while the open-top tanks retained fruit intensity. The wine was racked to 45 percent new French oak and underwent native malolactic fermentation. Each lot was fermented and aged separately for 10 months before blending, with barrel aging for a total of 18 months.		
The Wine	This is an alluring Cabernet, with gorgeous aromas of black cherry, currant and licorice, as well as more savory notes of black tea and olive. While the palate is luscious and ripe, thanks to thoughtful picking decisions, there is a lovely note of freshness to this wine that adds definition to the sweet berry and violet flavors, carrying the wine to a long, bright finish.		
Technical Notes	Alcohol:	14.4%	
	Composition:	94.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5.5% Petit Verdot	
	pH:	3.74	
	Total Acidity:	6.2 g/l	
	Production:	2,550 cases	
	Release Date:	Fall 2015	
	Bottled:	April 2015	