

Stuhlmuller Vineyards
2014 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	In 2014, a very mild winter and spring resulted in early budbreak and bloom. While drought conditions continued in 2014, some extremely well-timed spring rains helped achieve a good moisture profile in our estate soils, and contributed to exceptional quality fruit. While everything happened earlier in 2014, a good size crop slowed the overall pace of ripening, ultimately providing approximately the same amount of hangtime as a normal year, but with the fruit coming into the winery well in advance of any fall rains.		
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 40 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	With its layers of crème de cassis, black cherry, olive tapenade, violets and moist earth, there is a lovely classic quality to this Cabernet. On the palate, firm tannins and an inviting freshness frame the dark berry flavors beautifully, with more savory and herbal hints adding nuance and intrigue.		
Technical Notes	Alcohol:	14.4%	
	Composition:	94.0% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6.0% Petit Verdot	
	pH:	3.72	
	Total Acidity:	6.5 g/l	
	Production:	2,550 cases	
	Release Date:	Fall 2016	
	Bottled:	May 2016	
	Suggested Retail:	\$42.00	