

CHELSEA

Goldschmidt

Guidestone Rise, Alexander Valley

MERLOT 2023

VINTAGE

2023

VARIETAL

100% Merlot

APPELLATION

Alexander Valley

VINEYARD / ELEVATION

Guidestone Rise / 300'

SOILS

River sandy loam

PRUNING / TRELLIS

Hand pruned / GDC

VINES / ROOTSTOCK / CLONE

25 Years, 110R, Clone 181

HARVEST DATE

October 2023

HARVEST YIELD

3.65 tones per acre

ALCOHOL / TA / pH

14.5% / 5.81g/L / 3.61

FILTERING

Unfined / Unfiltered / Vegan

WOOD PROGRAM

100% French/ 20% New Oak

BARREL AGE

9 Months

CELLARING POTENTIAL

Drink now through 2035

CASES PRODUCED

1,200 12-PACKS

WINEMAKER

Nick Goldschmidt

VINEYARD NOTES

Guidestone Rise is a beautiful vineyard along Route 128, just east of Geyserville. The exceptional combination of climate, soil, and exposure stamps its mark on this classic varietal. This estate vineyard is well-suited to growing deeply concentrated, powerful Merlot. River soils of sandy loam and good drainage promote full grape maturity yet discourage the overly-vigorous Merlot from producing too high of yields. Named after Nick's eldest daughter, Chelsea, our Merlot highlights the juicy red fruit and spice notes from the varietal notes and barrel aging.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2023 Alexander Valley vintage brought a cool season, heavy rainfall, and slow ripening, resulting in dense, balanced wines with moderate alcohol. Delayed bud break and veraison pushed harvest into November. A likely cause of stalled sugar levels was deep-rooted vines absorbing water over producing sugar. The extended hang time led to excellent tannin and flavor development—a structured, age-worthy vintage worth repeating.

TASTING NOTES

Bright ruby with violet undertones, this youthful Merlot bursts with high-toned aromas of wild raspberry, red cherry, and pomegranate, accented by rose petal, baking spice, and a hint of crushed limestone. Lively and energetic on the palate, it delivers vibrant notes of cranberry, plum, and red cherry, with polished tannins and mid-palate complexity from white pepper and blueberry. The finish is sleek and mineral-driven, with lingering black cherry and spice. More agile and lifted than its Dry Creek counterpart, it reflects Alexander Valley's warm days and cool nights with clarity and verve. Drink through 2035.



Goldschmidt Vineyards wines are designed to showcase the finest examples of each single-vineyard. Sourced from the Alexander Valley and Napa Valley/Oakville appellations, site-specific harvests and state-of-the-art winemaking craft our Cabernet. They achieve exceptional richness, quality, and balance—the hallmark of a world-class wine.



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