

AVALON

CALIFORNIA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

VINTAGE 2009



Composition: 81% Cabernet Sauvignon
11% Merlot
8% Zinfandel

Appellation: 41% - Lodi
26% Mendocino County
18% Santa Barbara County
5% San Antonio Valley

Stats: Alc. 13.8%, pH 3.78, TA 5.5

The symbol on every Avalon label is from the town of Glastonbury, England. According to King Arthur legend, the city of Avalon once stood on this exact spot. We produce Cabernet for the Soul and for those who agree it is the king of red wines.

For our 2009 California selection, Winemaker Alex Cose chose coastal vineyards stretching the length of California for this wine. Grapes from Mendocino, Lodi, Santa Barbara and Paso Robles were selected and comprise over 90 percent of the blend. A small amount of Alexander Valley Merlot grapes also made it into this year's blend.

Northern California enjoyed a moist winter and a mild summer in 2009 while the Central Coast experienced an unusually dry winter. Summer temperatures were mild up and down California. The pleasant weather ripened the grapes gently and avoided sunburn and dehydration resulting in fresh fruit flavors. Harvest started on time and finished before October brought in plenty of needed rain to the south.

Alex brought the grapes into wineries on the central coast and in Sonoma County where we custom crush our grapes. This gets the grapes still cool from nighttime temperatures into tanks as quickly as possible. After a slight crushing at the winery, the grapes were given a 3-day cold soak to pull out color and dark berry jam flavors. After approximately two weeks of primary fermentation, the wine was pressed. The wine underwent malolactic fermentation to soften the acidity. The wine was aged for an additional 14 months in French and American oak barrels before bottling.

Our 2009 vintage shows a big red ruby color. Aromas of red and black cherries and fleshy plums fill the glass. Oak aging adds a touch of vanilla and pie crust while also adding mouth feel and texture to the wine. The wine drinks of cherry tart, raspberries and boysenberry jam. Alex notes that this vintage has "good freshness" and "good acid". The wine shows integrated tannins with mid-palate grip and a silky berry finish. In a nutshell, it's a juicy fruit forward wine with a great finish.

Many of us at the winery believe this is the finest vintage of Avalon California Cabernet Sauvignon Alex has ever delivered. Much of his success he attributes to a great vintage and even better fruit sourcing. It appears that experience does make a difference. In 2009 Alex marked his seventh year at Avalon winery.

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