Verite

Vérité La Joie 2014 captures Cabernet Sauvignon at its most commanding, marrying Sonoma County volcanic intensity with polished Bordeaux-inspired architecture and a long, darkly perfumed finish.

VÉRITÉ

La Joie 2014

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Vérité La Joie 2014 comes from Sonoma County, drawing on fruit from Alexander Valley, Bennett Valley, Chalk Hill and Knights Valley. These appellations offer a remarkable spectrum of elevation, exposure and soil, from rocky volcanic slopes to clay, basaltic volcanic ash and gravelly volcanic terrain. The wine is rooted in Vérité's "micro-cru" philosophy, where individual parcels are treated as distinct components before blending.

This diversity is crucial to the wine's depth. Alexander Valley contributes high-elevation structure and spice, Bennett Valley brings freshness and Merlot suppleness, Chalk Hill adds volcanic ash minerality and varietal complexity, while Knights Valley reinforces Cabernet Sauvignon power and gravely tension. The result is **100% Sonoma County** in identity, yet clearly Bordeaux-inspired in its architecture, with the warmth to ripen Cabernet fully and enough coastal influence to preserve acidity and longevity.

Winemaking

La Joie 2014 is a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant blend composed of **77% Cabernet Sauvignon**, 13% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. The blend places Cabernet at the centre, supported by Merlot for texture, Cabernet Franc for aromatic lift and Petit Verdot for colour, grip and dark spice. Alcohol is listed at 13.8%, with 0.59 total acidity and a pH of 3.70.

The wine was aged for 15 months in **100% French oak**, with a majority of new barrels. This élevage frames the fruit rather than overwhelming it, contributing cedar, toast, cigar box and polished tannin. Vérité's parcel-by-parcel approach, with individual micro-crus harvested and vinified separately, allows the final blend to be assembled for precision, structure and long-term harmony. The 2014 is built for extended cellaring, yet its tertiary notes now give it compelling complexity.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby-garnet with a dark, saturated core, moving toward mature garnet at the rim while retaining impressive density.
- **Aroma**: Blackcurrant, blackberry, plum and cassis unfold with graphite, lead pencil, cigar tobacco, truffle, cedar, espresso, lavender and a subtle smoky mineral edge.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied and structured, with firm yet refined tannins, polished oak integration and a long, savory finish. The fruit remains dark and concentrated, lifted by fresh acidity and layered with tobacco, cocoa, spice and volcanic earth.

Did you know?

Vérité means "truth" in French, a fitting name for Pierre Seillan's philosophy of **le droit du sol**, or "the right of the soil." Rather than relying on a single vineyard expression, La Joie is assembled from a palette of micro-crus, each selected for its role in the final architecture of the wine.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Dry-aged ribeye with rosemary jus**: The wine's Cabernet structure and cassis depth match the richness of beef, while herbal notes echo rosemary and char.
- **Slow-braised beef short ribs**: Silky collagen and dark, savory sauce soften the tannins and highlight the wine's tobacco, truffle and black fruit complexity.
- **Roasted lamb with garlic and thyme**: Lamb's sweet fat and aromatic herbs draw out the wine's graphite, spice and Cabernet Franc lift.
- **Wild mushroom risotto with aged Parmesan**: Earthy mushrooms complement the wine's truffle and umami tones, while Parmesan brings a savory counterpoint to its polished oak.

97

Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2014)

The 2014 La Joie has a spicy black purple color and a big, sweet kiss of camphor, black truffle, pen ink, blackcurrants and unsmoked cigar tobacco, followed by layers of fruit and glycerin in an opulent, beautifully savory, pure and multidimensional wine. The final blend Seillan produced in 2014 was 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. This is a compellingly great effort once again. It should be given 2-5 years of bottle age, then drunk over the following three decades. Rating: 97+

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La Joie 2014

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 97 Points (2014)

The estate's Cabernet Sauvignon dominated release is the 2014 La Joie. It's an incredible wine based on 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and the balance Petit Verdot. Reminding me of a top vintage of Ducru-Beaucaillou (the 2010?) with its classic Cabernet character, it offers thrilling notes of crème de cassis, exotic flowers, liquid rock-like minerality, and graphite and lead pencil nuances. Deep, concentrated, and backward, it has perfect balance, good acidity, and an undeniable Bordeaux-like weight and texture. Nowhere near primetime, it needs 5-7 years of cellaring and is going to keep for three decades. Rating: 97+

Decanter (DCT) : 96 Points (2014)

A Cabernet-dominated blend, La Joie reveals a classic bouquet of crushed cassis, wild plum, pencil shavings, wood smoke and a subtle framing of toasty oak. On the palate the wine is powerful, framed by firm but fine tannins and underpinned by a tensile line of acidity. It's the most structured and powerful of the Vérité wines, sapid and serious.