Silver Oak

A poised and polished Cabernet Sauvignon, Silver Oak's 2020 vintage from Alexander Valley dazzles with refined structure and lush, layered fruit.

SILVER OAK

95 Decanter

Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Alexander Valley, nestled in northern Sonoma County, is a region celebrated for its warm climate, complex soils, and well-exposed hillsides—conditions ideally suited to Bordeaux varieties, particularly **Cabernet Sauvignon**. Flanked by the Mayacamas Mountains and nourished by the Russian River, the area experiences warm days and cool nights, preserving acidity while enabling optimal ripeness.

The Silver Oak estate vineyards in Alexander Valley benefit from gravelly loam soils that provide excellent drainage, promoting deep root systems and concentrating flavours. The 2020 growing season saw early budbreak and a reduced yield due to warm, dry conditions. These lower yields resulted in particularly **concentrated berries** . Despite the challenges of the vintage, the wine reflects the **resilience of the vines** and the meticulous work in both vineyard and cellar.

Winemaking

The 2020 Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is composed of **95.2% Cabernet Sauvignon**, supported by **2.1% Merlot**, **1.4% Cabernet Franc**, **0.7% Petit Verdot**, and **0.6% Malbec**, creating a classic Bordeaux-style blend with depth and nuance.

Following harvest, the grapes underwent fermentation before aging in **American oak barrels**, a hallmark of Silver Oak's signature style. Though the specific duration of barrel aging is not disclosed in the technical sheet, Silver Oak is known for aging its wines for approximately **24 months in new American oak**, followed by additional bottle aging. The use of **coopered American oak barrels crafted in their own facility** adds consistency and a distinctive sweet spice character. The final blend was bottled and held until its release in **August 2024**, ensuring integration and finesse.

Alcohol :14,60 %

Composition: 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with garnet reflections, showcasing youthful vibrancy and clarity.
- **Aroma**: Inviting aromas of red cherry, raspberry, and blackcurrant interwoven with cedar, cola, and a touch of vanilla and clove from oak aging.
- **Palate**: Silky yet structured, the palate opens with ripe red berries and sweet spice, revealing polished tannins and vibrant acidity. Notes of cola, baking spices, and a hint of dark chocolate lead to a long, balanced finish.

Did you know?

Silver Oak ages all its Cabernet Sauvignon exclusively in **American oak**, a rare commitment among top-tier producers. Moreover, they operate their own **sustainably certified cooperage**, The Oak, in Missouri, ensuring full control over barrel production and wood sourcing.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled ribeye with chimichurri** – The wine's robust fruit and fine tannins stand up to the char and richness of grilled beef.
- **Mushroom risotto with thyme** – Earthy umami tones complement the wine's depth and cedar nuance.
- **Roast duck with cherry glaze** – Red fruit and acidity echo the sweet-savory interplay in the dish.
- **Aged cheddar or gouda** – The wine's complexity and oak spice pair beautifully with mature cheeses.

95 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 95 Points (2020)

Aged in 50% new and 50% second-use American Oak from the Duncan family's The Oak cooperage in Higbee, Missouri. Matt Duncan joined me for my tasting, and he says the Petit Verdot in the blend, of which there is 0.4%, is co-fermented with the Cabernet Sauvignon, intended to bring focus to the Cabernet fruit. A compelling, brooding, muscular rendition of Cabernet from Alexander Valley with gorgeous boysenberry notes, black currants, and rose petals laced with vanillin notes and toasty oak. Medium to full -bodied with black currants, ripe blackberry and black cherry notes framed by velvety tannins laced with that irresistible vanillin note. Toasty oak spices lend a hint of sweetness, balanced by grippy acidity. Long and complex, revealing umami, garrigue, and crushed slatestone on the finish. It's a terrific wine from the Alexander Valley.

94 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2020)

Handsome and classic for a Sonoma County cabernet, this full-bodied, approachable wine offers abundant aromas of black cherries, toasted oak and tobacco backed by gorgeous black cherries and black olive flavors on moderate tannins. It's 95% cabernet sauvignon.