Verite

The Vérité Le Désir 2013 is an exceptional, Cabernet Franc-dominant blend from Sonoma County, inspired by the elegance and structure of Saint-Émilion wines.

VÉRITÉ

99

Le Desir 2013

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Vérité Le Désir is crafted from grapes sourced across Sonoma County's premier appellations: **Alexander Valley**, **Bennett Valley**, **Chalk Hill**, and **Knights Valley**. These regions offer cooler micro-crus that are particularly suited to **Cabernet Franc**, allowing the varietal's refined structure and aromatics to shine. The vineyards are tended by **Pierre Seillan**, who manages more than **50 micro-crus**, combining their unique terroirs to craft a mosaic of flavors, textures, and complexities. In this blend, each vineyard brings a specific profile: Alexander Valley for depth, Chalk Hill for minerality, and Knights Valley for intensity, all harmonized to reflect Sonoma's potential for Bordeaux-style wines.

Winemaking

The **2013 growing season** in Sonoma County delivered ideal conditions for balanced, age-worthy wines. Winter was dry, followed by a mild spring, which nurtured vine growth. Warm summer days and cool nights stabilized acidity, and careful canopy management optimized sun exposure. Harvested between early and mid-September, the fruit was in exceptional condition.

Following harvest, **Le Désir 2013** was aged for **15 months in 100% new French oak barrels**, which imparted refined oak nuances while preserving the wine's inherent elegance. The blend comprises **62% Cabernet Franc, 22% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% Malbec**, each varietal adding to the complexity: **Cabernet Franc** for structure and aromatics, **Merlot** for body, **Cabernet Sauvignon** for backbone, and **Malbec** for subtle color and richness.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 62% Cabernet Franc, 22% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby red with a bright garnet rim, showcasing a wine that is starting to mature but holds vibrant freshness.
- **Aroma**: Aromas of **dried blackcurrant** and **blackberry coulis** meld seamlessly with classic **Cabernet Franc** notes of **cut greenery, black tea, and cracked pepper**. The French oak contributes layers of **subtle baking spices and toasted notes**, adding depth to the aromatic profile.
- **Palate**: On the palate, **Le Désir** is both powerful and refined. Juicy acidity and firm, structured tannins create a textural complexity, while a hint of dried stone minerality adds freshness. The finish is extremely long, underscored by elegance and a persistent mineral backbone that promises excellent aging.

Did You Know?

The name **Le Désir** reflects the desire to create a wine that captures the essence of Sonoma's micro-crus, inspired by Bordeaux's **Right Bank** wines. Pierre Seillan's approach to winemaking is known as **"micro-cru vinification,"** which involves treating each vineyard plot individually to fully express its unique characteristics. This results in a wine that combines scientific precision with artistic expression, honoring the diversity of Sonoma's terroirs.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-crusted rack of lamb**: The wine's earthy complexity and firm structure pair beautifully with the rich flavors and savory herbs of lamb.
- **Wild mushroom risotto**: The wine's mineral nuances and acidity balance the creamy, umami-rich risotto, creating a harmonious pairing.
- **Beef Wellington**: The layers of savory and herbaceous notes in Le Désir complement the tender beef and pastry.
- **Aged Gouda or Manchego**: The wine's long finish and structure work well with the nutty and rich flavors of aged cheeses, enhancing its savory depth.

99

Robert Parker (RP) : 99 Points (2013)

The 2013 Le Desir represents 2,500 cases. This is the softest of the three wines in 2013, and this blend of 61% Cabernet Franc, 23% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Malbec emerges with more than half of the cuvee coming from Hillsides in Alexander Valley, 37% from Chalk Hill and the rest tiny dollops from Bennett Valley and Knights Valley. Opaque purple, like its siblings, the wine is showing incredible floral, blueberry and espresso notes, exotic Asian spices, velvety texture, a supple, multilayered mouthfeel and incredible finish, with incense and licorice. This is magnificent young wine, with a good 40-50 years of upside potential. Pierre Seillan is justifiably proud of what he has achieved, and his first vintage of Verite was only 1998, but they go from strength to strength.

VÉRITÉ

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Decanter (DCT) : 96 Points (2013)

The most exotic and aromatically seductive of the Verité wines, wild red and black fruits marry with nuances of cigar tobacco and incipient floral details. While similarly large-scalled, La Desir's tannic structure is more supple than its siblings and its palate presence appealingly energetic. 62% Cabernet Franc, 22% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon and the balance Malbec.

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 95 Points (2013)

The 2013 Le Désir is once again alluring. Le Désir is quite powerful and intense, but it also has fairly soft contours for the year. Dark cherry, plum, smoke, chocolate, mocha, licorice and cloves are all pushed forward. Energetic and explosive, the 2013 is going to need at least a few years in bottle to settle down, but it has plenty to offer. I tasted the 2013 from tank just prior to bottling. (AG) (2/2016)