



Gold Plus!

BLUE ROCK VINEYARDS 2015 'BABY BLUE' RED BLEND

Alexander Valley, Sonoma County



Sonoma County's Blue Rock Vineyard was producing wine some 100 years before Cheryl and Kenny Kahn purchased the property in 1987. It was actually discovered by Italian immigrants in the 1880's and named 'Villa Maria.' They planted grapevine cuttings and ancient olive trees, many of which are still producing oil on the property to this day. Villa Maria Vineyard came and went with Prohibition and the land sat dormant until the Kahns brought this special piece of land back to life.

Kenny Kahn realized his love of wine in his hometown of Memphis in the 1980's. Following his graduation from Rhodes College, he joined his father in the discount brokerage business. Fortuitously, Kenny's neighbor frequently invited him over to taste from his impressive collection of California and Bordeaux wines, and though this, he was educated about and greatly inspired by these reputable wine-growing areas. Shortly thereafter, he and his wife realized their shared dream of moving out to California, and in 1985 they made it a reality.

Although Kenny was splitting his time between Blue Rock and a brokerage job in San Francisco, his labor of love was the vineyard. The Kahns renovated the land and the original 19th century home and replanted the vineyard with 46 acres of the five red Bordeaux varietals, plus 3 acres of Syrah. It's located in Alexander Valley, a vast expanse of land east of the Russian River. The estate benefits from its hillside location, warm days, and most importantly, its notable soil composition of blue pebbles and boulders of serpentine, from which *Blue Rock* gets its name. Although difficult to farm, the serpentine soil forces the vines to struggle and therefore produce lower yields of highly aromatic grapes with concentrated fruit flavors. Kenny credits the vineyards' unique soil for the eloquence of their wines.

Kenny eventually transitioned into wine full time, and in 2001 he brought on Nick Goldsmith of Simi Winery as a consulting winemaker to produce the inaugural release of 550 cases. Since then, the winery has grown to produce some 12,000 cases per year. Today, his focus is on continuously improving his vineyard with meticulous viticulture techniques, and striving to achieve balance among his vines. Thanks to this, he has been able to produce ultra premium, award-winning Bordeaux varietal grapes in a region not well known for this style, and we can only expect that more award-winning wines will follow.

Accolades and Tasting Notes

93 Points + Editor's Choice — *Wine Enthusiast* magazine

Best of Class — *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition

Gold Medal — *San Francisco International* Wine Competition

A blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot, 7% Syrah, 6% Malbec and 4% Cabernet Franc, Blue Rock's 2017 'Baby Blue' comes from the Blue Rock Estate Vineyard and a handful of prime neighboring sites in Sonoma's Alexander Valley. This beautifully aromatic wine offers loads of rich red and black fruits with delightful hints of blueberry, baking spices, vanilla, herbs, and earthy goodness. The finish has wonderful length, which is supported by soft and supple tannins. Aged in French Oak. Enjoy!



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