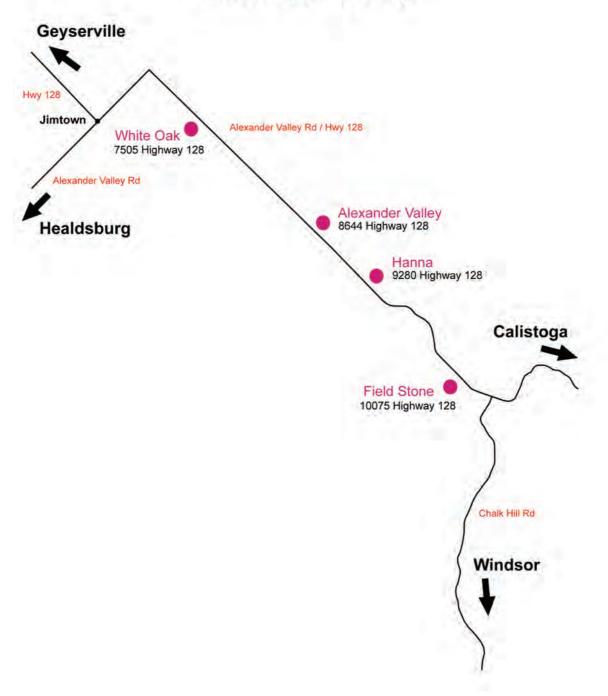
Alexander Valley



Alexander Valley

Alexander Valley Vineyards Field Stone Winery Hanna Winery & Vineyards White Oak Vineyards & Winery



Alexander, the Grapes

8644 Highway 128 Healdsburg, CA 95448 800-888-7209; 707-433-7209 http://www.avvwine.com/ avv@avvwine.com

Owner(s): Wetzel Family Estate Winemaker: Kevin Hall Club Director: Lu Hughes

Tasting Room: Daily 10-5



The Wines

White wines: \$9-25 Red wines: \$19-50

Specialties: Cabernet and Chardonnay Cases: 100,000 Alexander Valley is world renowned for its *terroir* (the grape-growing geography, pronounced "ter-WAR"). So it's natural that the Wetzel family, living and farming on the site of the original homestead of pioneer Cyrus Alexander, and being themselves pioneers in the valley wine industry, have appropriated the auspicious name of the valley for their winery.

The winery is probably best known for its Cabernet Sauvignon, but it is also the home of a Zinfandel with a veritable cult following, the cleverly named Sin Zin. The grounds include a picnic area with a western valley vista. And there's a boccie ball court (the locals prefer the Italian variant bocce), the scene of an annual tournament.

Club Name(s): Alexander Valley Vineyards Wine Club Shipments: 2 bottles x3 or 2 bottles up to x12 Wine Discounts: 20 percent/bottle; 30 percent/case Annual Cost: \$115-540 Choice of Wine: Red or white Members: 1,800 Club Founded: 1996 Merchandise Discount: 20 percent Club Events: Cyrus Birthday Dinner Spring Bash Harvest Party Blending with the winemaker 9 Juncheons Typical attendance: 100+ **Eutures Discount:** Yes

Alexander Valley Vineyards emphasizes the flourishing art of pairing wine and food, with a resident chef to perform the expert conjuring and conjugations. Nine luncheons in the course of the year provide an abundance of occasions to attend. There's a candlelight dinner in honor of Cyrus Alexander's birthday at the historic adobe home. More festive events include the Spring Bash and a harvest grape stomp. A venture with the winemaker gives club members the opportunity to create their own personal blends, and there's a magnum of Zinfandel awarded for the best blend.



Associated Events Alexander Valley Winegrowers Russian River Wine Road ZAP



Field Stone Winery The Only Zin of a Preacher Man

10075 Highway 128 Healdsburg, CA 95448 800-54-GRAPE; 707-433-7266 http://www.fieldstonewinery.com/ fieldstone1@earthlink.net

Owner(s): John and Katrina Staten and Family Winemaker: Patrick Murray Club Director: Helen Weber



Tasting Room: Daily 10-5

The Wines

White wines: \$16-18 Red wines: \$14-40 Port wines: \$50

Specialties:

Cabernet and Petite Syrah **Cases:** 8,000-10,000

Actually, Field Stone doesn't make a Zin, but Dr. Staten *is* a retired Presbyterian minister. And the allusion to "Dusty Springfieldstone" is irresistible.

The Field Stone club is one of the older clubs in the county, and the winery is memorable for its austere stone wall facing, a mask for the warm and cozy tasting room within. The club's events are held on the grounds of the winery, in the picnic area under the majestic old oaks that surround the building. Most events focus on one or two Field Stone wines, with talks about how they get from vines to bottles. The wine or wines are paired with complimentary foods, usually suggested and prepared by a local chef.

Club Name(s): Biannual Sampler Club • Quarterly Reserve Club Shipments: 4 bottles x2 • 3 bottles x4* Wine Discounts: 20 percent/bottle; 25 percent/case on follow-up shipments Annual Cost: \$150-175 • \$300-350 Choice of Wine: No** Members: 1,500 Club Founded: 1984 Club Events: Spring wine club event Harvest blessing and banquet Fall wine club event Holiday open house Typical attendance: 100-200 **Futures Discount:** No.

*Members in either club have the option of doubling their club shipments.

**Reserve Club Members can choose a reds only selection that results in four bottles shipped four times a year. True to his calling, Dr. Staten presides over a harvest blessing each year, followed by a club banquet.

There are two club programs, offering quarterly or biannual shipments.



Associated Events Russian River Wine Road Alexander Valley Winegrowers



Hanna Winery & Vineyards

Yes, We Have No Barbera

9280 Highway 128 Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-431-4310 and 5353 Occidental Road Santa Rosa, CA 95401 707-575-3371 http://www.hannawinery.com/ aimee@hannawinery.com

Owner(s): Dr. Elias Hanna and Family Winemaker: Jeff Hinchliffe Club Director: Aimee Murphy

Tasting Room: Daily 10-4

The Wines

White wines: \$17-20 Red wines: \$20-50

Specialties:

Cabernet, Sauvignon Blanc, and Zinfandel **Cases:** 40,000



A looney allusion to a cartoon production company to invoke a relatively little-known varietal is probably not an association a dignified winemaker would want to make. But it's too delicious a connection for the authors of a wine club book to resist. And yes, probably for a number of good reasons, Hanna makes no Barbera.

There are two Hanna tasting rooms. The original is at the "Home Ranch" and winery between Santa Rosa and Sebastopol. It is more convenient from most of the

Club Name(s): Hanna and Her Sippers • Visions Cellar Select Shipments: 2 bottles x4 Wine Discounts: 20 percent/bottle • 25 percent/bottle Annual Cost: \$160-240 • \$280-360 Choice of Wine: Mixed or reds only Members: 1,600 Club Events: Spring party Hog Island Oysters Feast with Sauvignon Blanc Typical attendance: 250-500 Futures Discount: Yes Bay Area, though relatively more modest in size and setting. And it's usually staffed by Trudy, with whom it's a delight to visit. Out back there's a wetlands habitat to explore, and there's a patio just outside the tasting room door if lunch is luring. The newer tasting room, more impressive and with a nice view, sits atop a hillock in Alexander Valley.

Hanna has two clubs. Hanna and Her Sippers provides members with access to the exclusive Jasmine label wines. The Visions Cellar Select club is the key to obtaining the more coveted Bismark Mountain Vineyard reds and the Elias Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Both clubs enjoy invitations to the same spring and fall parties. The latter includes a feast of Hog Island oysters and Sauvignon Blanc.



Associated Events Alexander Valley Winegrowers Russian River Valley Winegrowers Russian River Wine Road



White Oak Vineyards & Winery

Oakey Whites (and Reds)

7505 Highway 128 Healdsburg, CA 95448 707-433-8429 http://www.whiteoakwinery.com/ tastingroom@WhiteOakWinery.com

Owner(s): Bill Myers and Burdell Properties Winemaker: Bill Parker Club Director: Scott Jordan

Tasting Room: Daily 10-5



The Wines

White wines: \$15-20 Red wines: \$24-40

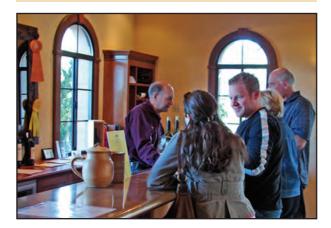
Specialties:

Cabernet, Chardonnay, and Zinfandel **Cases:** 25,000 Oakey can sometimes be a touch overdone, but we mean oakey in a balanced way! White Oak has become widely known for its Chardonnay, and though they are working hard on their Zins and Cabs, the words *white* and *oak*, and even the color of the hospitality center, may make the subliminal association of White Oak with Chard indelible. But it's a nice problem to have.

Founder Bill Myers was a building contractor and salmon fisherman in Alaska before relocating to Sonoma County and buying a vineyard in Alexander Valley in 1981. In 1997 Bill formed an alliance with Don Groth and Burdell Properties and together they built the impressive Mediterranean-style Winery and

Club Name(s): Fountain Club • WOW Club Shipments: 6 bottles x4 • 2 bottles x6 Wine Discounts: 20 percent/bottle • 15 percent/bottle* Annual Cost: \$495 • \$270 Choice of Wine: Reds, whites, or mixed Members: 1,450 Club Founded: 1998 Merchandise Discount: 20 percent • 15 percent Club Events: Crab Fest (weekend) Lobster lunch Annual wine club dinner Harvest dinner Typical attendance: 90+ Futures Discount: 30 percent

*An extra 5 percent discount on reorders of shipment wines



Hospitality Center the following year.

White Oak has two club programs, the Fountain Club and the WOW Club. They're distinguished by more than just their shipping programs. Both get 24 bottles per year, but the Fountain Club is limited to 600 members, gets an extra 5 percent discount on shipments and purchases, and has complimentary use of the Top of the Oak room for groups of up to 20.

Club events include a weekend-long crab feast, a lobster lunch, an anniversary dinner party, and a harvest dinner.



Associated Events Russian River Wine Road Alexander Valley Winegrowers