

SKIPSTONE

2021 SKIPSTONE OLIVER'S BLEND

Winemaking Team

Laura Jones – Winemaker

Philippe Melka – Winemaking Consultant

Varietal Composition

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Vintage Notes

The 2021 vintage was a spectacular year for Alexander Valley. A dry winter ushered in an early budbreak accompanied by a perfectly mild spring, setting the stage for a classic growing season. A second year into the drought, the dry conditions of the soil guided the vines to concentrate their efforts into producing and ripening small, intensely flavored berries. Though the crop size was painfully low, we are thrilled to report that quality was exceptionally high. Warm summer days and cool nights led to even ripening, optimal phenolics, and a leisurely harvest—a winemaker's dream and a truly magnificent vintage.

The resulting 2021 wines are structured, energetic, and deeply aromatic. Their quality brings to mind other great vintages made in drought years, displaying a freshness reminiscent of the 2016s supported by a tannin structure similar to the 2013s. You can cellar these wines with confidence, and patience will be rewarded in their evolution.

Winemaking regime

Skipstone hand-sorted then precision optical sorted berry by berry the grapes from our estate. Each of the 6 lots that comprised the final blend of this wine were fermented and left on the skins for an average of 24 days prior to pressing. The wine was aged for 19 months in 79% new French oak barrels prior to being bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

542 cases produced

From the steep, rocky hillsides of our estate vineyard, the outstanding 2021 Oliver's Blend exudes a beautifully complex bouquet of ripe black fruits, licorice, and rose petals layered with alluring notes of incense and tobacco leaf. The mouthwatering entry coats the palate with vibrant red berries, leading to a penetrating finish braced by powdery tannins and perfectly balanced acidity. This is a wine that is built for the long haul. Best enjoyed 2024-2046. We recommend a 2-hour decant if enjoying over the next year.

