



1997 Alec's Blend

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| Varietal | 65% Cabernet Sauvignon 20% Syrah 15% Petit Verdot |
| Appellation | Napa Valley |
| Alcohol | 14.2% |
| Release Date | September 2000 |
| Case Production | 600 cases |

We wanted to make a special wine to celebrate the birth (April 1997) of our first grandson, Alec. As we tasted through our '97 reds, three single vineyard lots of Cabernet, Syrah and Petit Verdot were born to be blended together. The result was our first meritage, Alec's Blend. After extended maceration and 20 months in 60% new French and American oak, it was bottled unfinned and unfiltered. This is an earthy wine with smoky leather and a hint of anise in the nose. Spicy and dark, it is full of black cherry fruit, currants and vanilla.

"If less than conventional in its varietal constituency, this very ripe and densely packed young wine rings true with the winery's style of big, expressive wines, and its close-to-jammy fruit comes dressed up with lots of charry oak and chocolatey richness. Never subtle and thus suited to service with rustic roasts and well-seasoned meats, it carries a fair measure of tannin but has a softer edge that calls for only mid-term aging."

- *Connoisseur's Guide*

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