



MERLOT

DESCRIPTION:

Deep nose with layers of fresh cherries, plumbs, and strawberries. Explosive berry, some black cherries, milk chocolate and cinnamon taste. Very round ripe tannins, mid body with cherries and black berries after taste.

The Vineyards

Each vineyard is selected by Alex Sotelo to ensure top quality in each finished bottle. **Dalraddly Vineyard** is located on Chiles Pope Valley Rd. in the Napa Valley near St. Helena. The 68 acre planted vineyard is in between 1100 ft to 1900 ft of altitude and is well known to produce the finest Zinfandels, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah and Merlot grapes. Zinfandel block was planted in 1973 and the Cabernet Sauvignon Block was planted in 1980. This vineyard is farm to produce the finest grapes takes wisdom and love toward the land. **Solari Vineyard**, is located near the northern end of the Napa Valley North of Calistoga; at the foothills of Mountain St Helena is one of the northeast vineyards in the Valley. This vineyard was planted in perfect well drain white rocky loamy soils in the late 80's and consider to be one of the finest Muscat vineyard in the Valley.

Alex

Came for the first time to California in 1991 at the age of 18 searching for the American dream. When he arrived to Napa Valley, he knew that something amazing would happen. He said: "this is one of the most beautiful places on earth; here I even breathe a fresher air." Back then Alex knew nothing about grape growing or winemaking. He had no realization that working in the vineyard and winery was going to change his life; forever. Being an art aficionado and fantastic photographer, he looks at winemaking as life imitating art. He said "winemaking is art, just like painting, the vineyard is my easel, the grapes are my canvas, the varieties and the clones are my paint colors, and the master piece is the finish bottle of wine." Every wine is different like every piece of art for an artist. For this Mexican born immigrant, coming to a new place, getting established, and breaking new grounds was not easy. None English speaking and not knowing his surroundings, took quite some energy and time to assimilate his new environment. Alex came to the States and went to College to study English, the Arts, Viticulture and Wine making. He fully understood the importance of education to succeed and with perseverance and inner strength he achieved his goal; to reach the American Dream. Alex spent 12 years producing and managing Robert Pecota Winery wines; this gave him the courage to launch his very own brand Alex Sotelo Cellars and consult as a winemaker for other Napa Valley wineries.